

Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XV.—NEW SERIES, No. 492.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1855.

[Price 6d.

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Full particulars in reply to a letter (enclosing a stamp) addressed Rev. H. Le Fevre, Baptist Minister, Thornbury, Gloucestershire.

COMMITTEE of the PROTESTANT CONFERENCE, embracing Members of the Church Protestant Defence Society, Evangelical Alliance, and National Club.

CHAIRMAN—J. C. COLQUHOUN, Esq.

VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Sir Brook Bridges, Bart. Sir Culling Eardley, Bart.

James Heald, Esq. Major-General Alexander.

The sole object of this Committee (which exists for a temporary and special purpose) is to prepare for a General Meeting of Protestants in the Metropolis on the 17th April and following days. The Committee will present to the Meeting, and through it, to the country, the great and urgent object of the Repeal of the Maynooth Endowment Act.

Immediate Subscriptions are required to defray the expense of committee-rooms, a numerous temporary agency, printing, postage, advertising, and the proposed general meeting. These expenses, from the correspondence, deputations, &c., will be necessarily large.

THE FOLLOWING SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE ACKNOWLEDGED:

	s. d.	s. d.
Sir Culling E. Eardley, Bart.	100	0
John B. Baxter, Esq.	100	0
C. J. Bevan, Esq.	20	0
G. Noel Hearne, Esq.	10	0
J. Braithwaite, Esq.	20	0
Geo. Hinchliffe, Esq.	10	0
J. Henderson, Esq.	100	0
Major-General Alexander.		0
A. Haldane, Esq.	2	0
J. C. Colquhoun, Esq.	2	0
John Chubb, Esq.	10	0

Further Donations are received, which will be thankfully received by Mr. John Dore, Post, Strand, at the Committee-rooms, Peale's Coffee-house, Fleet-street, Office, Peale's Coffee-house, 177, Fleet-street, London.

29th March, 1855.

DESTITUTION in the WEST HIGHLANDS.

LANDS.—The sheriffs in the respective districts, ministers of every religious denomination, and the poor sufferers themselves, having certified, in a manner which cannot be doubted, that severe an almost unprecedented distress prevails in the West Highlands and Islands of Scotland and that, but for the large supplies of food already sent to the rescue, there would have been, ere now, many deaths by starvation, a benevolent public is earnestly solicited to contribute towards the relief of those who are suffering sorely from hunger. Every day is adding to the number of the destitute, and there are many families subsisting on one diet a day. The causes of this extraordinary destitution are the complete failure of the potato crop, and the great failure in the corn crop of last year, owing to a late and wet harvest. This, coupled with a total failure in the herring fishery, the famine and war price of food, and the bad state of trade, has brought very large numbers of the inhabitants of the Western Highlands to the very brink of starvation. The weather is still stormy, with frost and snow, putting an entire stop to all outdoor labour. Hundreds of crofters have already consumed all their grain crops, and have no seed for their crofts; and, unless assisted with seed, their land will become useless to them. Contributions for purchasing food and seed are therefore required; and as the destitution is not restricted to any one sect or party, but is general, so will be the distribution of the supplies. Care is taken to give according to the need, and not the creed of the sufferers.

CONTRIBUTIONS for purchasing food and grain for seed for the West Highland sufferers will be thankfully received: in London, at the London and Westminster Bank, at the office of the "Christian Times," 121, Fleet-street, and by Messrs. Cash, 5, Bishopsgate-street; in Manchester, at the Union Bank, and at the office of the "Examiner and Times;" in Oxford, at the Old Bank; in Cheltenham, by Messrs. Shire and Sons, merchants; in Edinburgh, by John F. Macfarlan, Esq., North Bridge; in Glasgow, at the City of Glasgow Bank, by Messrs. W. and R. Smeal, merchants, and by Mr. Donald Ross, 20, St. Enoch-square.

Farmers and others having grain are respectfully entreated to forward any quantity, large or small, to Messrs. Lawson, merchants, 64, Grassmarket, Edinburgh; to Mr. James Steel, 45, Jamaica-street, or to Mr. Ross, 20, St. Enoch-square, Glasgow, ticketed "for West Highland Crofters."

Packets or Parcels of clothing for the sufferers may be addressed to Mr. Donald Ross, 20, St. Enoch-square, Glasgow.

Glasgow, 20, St. Enoch-square, March 29, 1855.

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ORIGINAL
DEFECTIVE

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

GOOD OR BAD, AS IT MAY BE USED.

THE division, on Thursday night, on Sir William Clay's motion for leave to bring in a bill for the abolition of Church-rates, highly encouraging as it is, must not be over estimated by the friends of that measure. It proves the feasibility of getting rid of that most vexatious impost, but it by no means settles the ultimate fate of the bill. It displays the real strength of neither its friends nor its opponents—nor does it indicate the true proportion of the one to the other. Let it be remembered that Lord Palmerston has not pledged the Government to the principle of the bill, although he has given grounds for hope that they will assent to its second reading. The Peel party, moreover, have not yet voted at all—an abstinence which it will not be safe to presume they will practise in reference to its further stages. Several of the more Conservative and Whiggish members of the Liberal side may be understood as having voted for the introduction of the measure, not to express their satisfaction with it, but, in deference to the wishes of their constituents, to obtain for it a full and fair discussion. Nor did the Tories muster in strength. Many of them were absent on the understanding that the introduction of the Bill would be acquiesced in by their leaders—and nothing but the determined refusal of Mr. Henley to yield the point, led to a division. In the early part of the evening, it was generally thought that the measure would be left unopposed at this its first stage; and there were friends and foes alike who left the House under this impression—more probably of the latter than the former.

On the other hand, however, this first success cannot justly be regarded as inconsiderable. It was not a snap division. Under any circumstances, it would have presented a large majority in our favour. Ministers would not have consented to the introduction of the bill, if they could have declined without damage to their parliamentary position—nor would the leaders of the Opposition have counselled acquiescence, if they had believed themselves able to offer a successful resistance. Two to one in favour of a measure which is but a simple embodiment of the principle of abolition, and which depends so little upon details for its ultimate character, is, unquestionably, a victory of much promise. It indicated a much nearer approximation of parliamentary to public opinion on this question, than our friends have been wont to look for—and it may well serve to show that the object sought is one within reach. So far as the House of Commons is concerned, we repeat our confident conviction that the bill *may* be carried through all its stages. Of its fate in the House of Lords we are, of course, less sanguine—but, even there, success will be materially dependent upon the extent of favour displayed

towards it by the Lower House. At any rate, supposing that the bill is indorsed by a well-developed public opinion, we do not, by any means, despair of its being passed into law this session.

Sir William Clay, with the assent of those friends of the measure with whom he is accustomed to advise, has made some trifling additions to the Bill of last year, which our readers will, no doubt, be glad to have explained. He goes, as before, for total, immediate, unqualified abolition. As before, too, he makes an exception in cases where church-rates have been charged with debts already contracted—but, in the present Bill, provides for the speedier and more certain removal of such incumbrances. He then removes any legal obstacles which may exist to the application of voluntary offerings to the repair of the parochial churches—provides machinery to enable subscribers to control the expenditure of their own funds—and permits a small proportion of pew-rents to be charged, if the parishioners be so minded, and applied to the reparation of the building, and the defrayment of the expenses of worship. In a word, he clears away the legal difficulties which would impede the operation of the voluntary principle within the Establishment, and grants facilities for its unrestrained exercise. But he wisely leaves untouched every right which the law, as it stands, recognises in parishioners. Assuming the fee simple of all the parochial churches to reside in the State, and regarding Churchmen as tenants who pay no rent, he considers it their duty to keep the buildings in repair during their occupancy, and he gives them all necessary power to collect, manage, and expend, as may best suit them, voluntary contributions for this purpose. The fee simple remains in the hands of the people—and from all interference with their rights the honourable baronet has religiously abstained. The provisions he has added to the bill of last year infuse into the measure an executory principle; and, whilst affording no just ground of objection to Dissenters, tend to render the bill more acceptable to enlightened and liberal Churchmen.

We have no reason to suppose that our friends have been remiss in their exertions, private or public. Indeed, we know it to be otherwise—for we have seen signs of the one and heard echoes of the other. But lest they should be betrayed by fallacious appearances into counting upon too easy a triumph, we implore them to redouble their efforts, if it be possible. We can assure them that they cannot render the Government a better service, than by bringing to bear upon them such a pressure as will compel them to carry this bill. There are members of the Cabinet—there are more members of the Administration—who cannot afford to be dragged into a vote hostile to this measure—and they will be but too thankful for any such manifestation of public feeling as would force the Government to adopt the bill. Indeed, it is the earnest desire of the Liberal side of the House to bring the question to a settlement—and many who are individually reluctant to accept of the settlement proposed by Sir W. Clay, would not be sorry to be borne along by a tide of opinion too strong to admit of resistance. They know that the Church-rate system has received its doom. They are conscious that it does not deserve perpetuation. They would have preferred some more tangible substitute than the Voluntary principle, the elastic properties of which they have yet to learn. But they would hail the necessity which should oblige Parliament to act finally in

the matter. A little moral compulsion would satisfy them that it is their wisdom and duty to accept of a settlement, if not such as they would choose, at least such as they can get. No stone, therefore, as we have before said, must be left unturned. Ingenuity should be taxed to discover fresh influences that may be turned to account in favour of this measure. "To him who knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." In the spirit of this maxim we must all act.

One word more before closing these observations. Easter is at hand, and among the means of agitation which will tell upon the Legislature, vestry meetings are not the least effective. They should be boldly undertaken everywhere. Churchmen as well as Dissenters are frequently aggrieved by Church-rates. Let them be enlisted in opposition to them if possible. Even where it is useless to go to a poll, it will be desirable to raise a debate, and to take a formal division. And in every parish where the subject is stirred in vestry, a petition to both Houses of Parliament in favour of Sir W. Clay's bill, and making distinct reference to the contest, would do good.

The victory just achieved will be an advantage or a misfortune, according as it is used. If it should have the effect of beguiling the friends of the measure into any relaxation of their efforts, it will prove a misfortune; if, on the contrary, it operates as an incentive to increased exertion, it may be looked upon as a happy augury, tending in its influence to realise itself. In Sir W. Clay our friends have not only a zealous, but a most judicious leader. Under his experienced guidance, no labours of theirs will be thrown away. To his tact we are mainly indebted for the success hitherto gained. It will be our fault if we do not take full advantage of the strong parliamentary position to which he has conducted us. He is doing his part admirably, let us do ours, and quietly and confidently leave results in the hands of God.

ABOLITION OF CHURCH-RATES.

PETITIONS TO PARLIAMENT.

The shower of petitions in favour of the abolition of Church-rates has only just commenced. As the second reading of Sir W. Clay's Bill is fixed for May 14, there is ample time for a full and overwhelming expression of public feeling. Every petition will now tell, and we earnestly trust that the advice and instruction we have given in preceding numbers will be generally acted upon. Up to Wednesday last there had been presented to the House of Commons one petition in favour of Church-rates, with one signature (!), one with ten signatures for alteration of the law, and eighteen with 1,048 signatures for total abolition. This is the last official report, and does not include those presented on Thursday and Friday, which were more than 100. We subjoin the particulars of petitions presented during the past week, as given in the Parliamentary reports:—

WEDNESDAY.—Mr. Phillips presented a petition for the abolition of Church-rates from the mayor, aldermen, and town council of Haverfordwest; Mr. E. Ball, from Wilburton; Mr. Sheridan, from the congregation of Baptists in the borough of Dorchester; Mr. Gurney, from the Baptists of Lynn; and Mr. Frewen, from the Independents of Cuckfield.

THURSDAY.—Petitions in favour of the abolition of Church-rates were presented by Sir S. Northcote, from the congregation of Independents meeting in King-street Chapel, Dudley; by Mr. L. Davies, from the minister and congregation of the Welsh Dissenting Chapel called Capel Mair, Cardigan; also from the members and congregation of Dissenters at Hope Chapel, Cardigan; by Mr. L. King, from the Independent Chapel, Eden-street, Kingston-on-Thames; by Mr. Whatman, from members of a congregation of Protestant Dissenters of Week-street Chapel, Maidstone; by Mr. Grey, from Liskeard; by Mr. Morris, from Cardigan (3); by Mr. G. Berkeley, from the teachers of the Baptist Sun-

day-school in Coleford; from members of the Baptist Church at Lydbrook; from inhabitants of West Dean; from inhabitants of Coleford and officers of the Baptist Church in that place; and also Independent Congregation of Coleford, all in Gloucestershire; by Mr. Lee, from the Protestant Dissenters of Maidstone; by Mr. Alcock (2), from Wansorth; by Sir W. Clay, from inhabitants of Hereford, Protestant Dissenters, Olney; Congregation of Independents, Stoke; Congregational Churches of Cumberland; Baptists, and Calvinistic Methodists, Cardiganshire; inhabitants of Barleg; Independents, Ribworth; Independents, Woolwich; inhabitants and Protestant Dissenters of Wootton-under-Edge; inhabitants of Faversham; inhabitants of Sutton, in Ashfield; by Mr. S. Davies, from the Independent congregation of Nebo, Carmarthenshire; by Mr. V. Smith, from the Baptist Dissenters of Northampton; by Mr. Phillips (4), from the Independent Chapel, the Baptist Chapel, and from inhabitants of Haverfordwest; by Mr. Wilcox (5), from Protestant Dissenters of Southampton; by Mr. Seymour (Poole) (2), from the Baptist and Independent congregations of Poole; by Mr. Heyworth (6), from Derby; by Mr. Strutt, from the Baptist congregation of Derby-road, Nottingham; by Mr. Cobden, from the Methodist Chapel, the Salem Chapel, and the Methodist (New Connexion), Barnsley; by Mr. Moody, from a congregation of Baptists, at Chard; by the Earl of Uxbridge, from the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Upper-green, the Wesleyan New Connexion, Canal-street, the Wesleyan Methodist Reform Chapel, King-street, Princes-end, the Methodist New Connexion, Regent-street, Princes-end, the Baptist Church, Providence Chapel, Cosley, the St. Paul's Chapel, Dudley-port, the Ebenezer Chapel, Union-street, Queen-street Chapel, Princes-end; the Zion Chapel, Princes-end, the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, and the Wesleyan Chapel, Bloomfield, all from Tipton; by Mr. Miall, from Independent congregations, Llechryd Chapel, Cardiff, from the inhabitants of Tonbridge, Kent, and the inhabitants of Chepstow, Monmouth; by General Buckley, from the Congregation of Baptists, from Downton, Wilts; by Mr. Pritchard, from the inhabitants of the parish of St. Leonard, Bridgnorth; also from the inhabitants of the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth; by Mr. Langston, from the congregation of George-street Chapel, Oxford; by Mr. Pellatt, from the congregation of the Baptist Chapel, Sheffield-road; by Mr. F. North, from Protestant Dissenting bodies in Hastings, and also from members of the Church of England, in Hastings; by the Solicitor-General, from the inhabitants of Aylesbury, and the congregation of Independents at Aylesbury; and by Sir E. Perry, from the Protestant Dissenters of Morrice-square Chapel.

FRIDAY.—Petitions for the abolition of Church-rates were presented by Mr. C. S. Butler, from the minister and seat-holders of the Congregational Church at Kingsland; by Mr. Miall, from the Baptist Chapel, London-road; Baptist Chapel, Bailey's-lane; Independent Chapel, Abbey-lane, Saffron Walden; inhabitants of Kelvedon, Essex; Baptist Chapel, Stratford-on-Avon; Independent Chapel, High-street; and Wesleyan Association Chapel, Baillie-street, Rochdale; by Sir W. Clay, from the Protestant Dissenters at Cardigan; by Lord Emlyn, from Letterston, Pembrokeshire; by Mr. Deedes, from the congregation of the Dissenters of the Baptists of St. Peter's, Isle of Thanet; by Mr. Hadfield, from the Baptist congregation of Torquay; the Baptist congregation of Torre, Torquay; the congregation in Zion Chapel, Alazon's-row, Torre; the congregation of the Abbey-road Independent Chapel, Torquay; and from the congregation in Salem Chapel, Torquay; and by Mr. Layard, from the Baptist congregation of Walton-street, Aylesbury.

PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION.

We subjoin a list of members who voted on Thursday last on the first reading of Sir W. Clay's bill. We had originally intended giving also a list of absences, but this would not be of any special service. It will suffice to make one or two remarks upon that point. For various reasons, the division cannot be taken as any test of the strength of the anti-rate party. Many staunch opponents of the Church-rates were absent from accidental causes, such as Mr. Cheetham and Mr. Barnes. Many others did not attend, who ought to have been present. It will be seen that the subordinate members of the Government showed great alacrity in supporting Sir W. Clay. The most important exception was Mr. B. Osborne, who was absent. The very general absence of the Irish Liberal members is also worthy of notice, although there is reason to hope that these gentlemen will act worthy of their votes last session by being in attendance on the second reading of the bill. Still more significant is the absence of Sir J. Graham, Mr. W. E. Gladstone, Mr. Sidney Herbert, Mr. Goulburn, the leading Peelites, from the division, from which we may surmise either that they are reserving themselves for the second reading, or that they may be disposed to acquiesce in the settlement of the troublesome question without their prominent interference. But most likely Mr. Gladstone will not be satisfied with so silent and prudent a course. Mr. Disraeli also stayed away.

The subjoined list contains the name of Mr. Hudson amongst the "ayes!" The only professed Liberal amongst the "noes" is—can our readers guess?—Mr. John Henry Gurney. This gentleman, the son of a Quaker, a professed supporter of Parliamentary Reform, and an occupant of the ministerial benches, will not even allow Sir W. Clay to bring in a bill for the settlement of the Church-rate question. In the liberality of his views he is surpassed by Lord Palmerston, Sir G. Grey, and Sir C. Wood, who all gave their consent to the introduction of the measure. As Mr. Gurney has so eagerly fraternised with the old Tories, hadn't he better sit with them? We trust

the Dissenters of Lynn will not allow this disgraceful conduct to escape their notice.

AYES—155.

Acton, J
Adair, H
Adair, R
Alcock, T
Antrobus, E
Ball, E
Baxter, W
Beaumont, W
Bell, J
Berkeley, C
Bethell, Sir R
Biddulph, R. M
Biggs, W
Bland, L. H
Bouvier, E. P
Bouyer, G
Brady, J
Brand, H. B. W
Bright, J
Brocklehurst, J
Brockman, E. D
Buckley, General
Byng, G
Cardwell, E
Cavendish, G
Challis, T
Chambers, T
Cobbett, J. M
Cobden, R
Cockburn, Sir A
Cowan, C
Craufurd, E. H. J
Crook, J
Crossley, F
Cubitt, W
Currie, R
De Vere, S
Dillwyn, L
Duncan, Viscount
Duncan, G
Duncombe, T
Dungarvan, Visac
Dunlop, A
Ebrington Visac
Ellice, E
Ewart, W
Fenwick, H
Ferguson, J
Fitzgerald, J
Fitzgerald, W
Fitzroy, Hon. H
Foley, J
Forster, C

NOES—76.

Adderly, C
Bailey, Sir J
Barrow, W
Beaute, Earl
Bentinck, G
Blackburn, P
Bramley Moore, J
Brace, C
Campbell, Sir A
Cecil, Lord R
Child, Smith
Cholmondeley, D
Clive, R
Cobbond, J. C
Cocks, T. S
Cole, H. A
Davies, J. L
Deedes, W
Duckworth, Sir J
Dunne, Colonel
Du Pre, C
Egerton, E. C
Evelyn, W
Farrer, J
Fellowes, E
Filmer, Sir E
Floyer, J

TELLERS.

Clay, Sir W
Lowe, R

The following is an analysis of the division from a register kept by the National Parliamentary Reform Association:—

Ayes, 155; Noes, 78; tellers included.	COUNTY MEMBERS.	FOR.	AGAINST.
	England and Wales	14	36
	Ireland	9	2
	Scotland	2	5
	University Members	—	2
	BOURGEOIS MEMBERS.		
	England and Wales	105	29
	Ireland	6	4
	Scotland	11	—
		157	78

The 78 Members who voted against the Bill represented a population of 2,928,629, giving an average population to each member of 37,546.

The 29 Borough Members who voted against the Bill represented a population of 328,467 and 20,910 registered electors, giving an average population of 11,326 and 721 electors to each member.

INFLUENCE.

Of those voting against the Bill 26 were connected with the Aristocracy; 19 interested in Church Property. Of the 29 Borough Members who voted against, 1 represented a constituency having a population under 5,000; 7, one under 10,000; 9, one under 15,000; 4, one under 20,000; 2, one under 25,000; 4, one under 50,000; 1, one under 100,000; and 1, one under 150,000. 5 represented constituencies having less than 500 electors; 4, constituencies having less than 1,000 electors; 4, constituencies having less than 1,500 electors; 2, constituencies having less than 2,000 electors; 2, constituencies having less than 2,500 electors; 1, a constituency having less than 3,000 electors; and 1, a constituency having less than 20,728 electors (London).

PAIRS.

FOR.	AGAINST.
Mr. Mills	Lord Chelsea
Colonel Clifford	Earl March
Lord Uxbridge	Mr. George Dundas
Mr. W. Brown	Sir James East
Mr. Lewis Ricardo	Mr. Bennett
Mr. Divett	Colonel Monsell
Mr. Jackson	Sir R. Vyvyan
Mr. Marshall	Mr. T. Baring
Mr. Traill	Mr. Franklyn
Mr. Charles Howard	Mr. O. Morgan
Mr. Rich	Sir W. Verner
Mr. Moffatt	Mr. W. E. Duncombe
Mr. Mangles	Lord Blandford
Mr. Glyn	Mr. G. A. Hamilton
Mr. P. Scrope	Sir John Pakington
Mr. Headlam	Sir F. Thesiger
Mr. Walter	Sir R. Carnac
Mr. F. Dundas	Sir T. Herbert
Sir J. Matheson	Mr. Abel Smith
Mr. Layard	Colonel Gilpin
Mr. Mowatt	General Wyndham
Mr. C. S. Butler	General Peel
Sir James Duke	Mr. Stuart Wortley
Mr. Chaplin	Mr. L. Buck
Mr. Bonham Carter	Admiral Walcot
Mr. Otway	Major Beresford
Lord Castleross	Lord Galway
Mr. Milner	Lord Newark
Lord R. Grosvenor	Colonel North

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

For once we are happy to record an instance of consistency in the *Times*. Last year "the big newspaper" came out in favour of the total abolition of Church-rates. This year it has not swerved from the same policy. On Saturday appeared an article opening as follows:—

The House of Commons has once more affirmed, this time by a majority of two to one, the inexpediency and injustice of the present law of Church-rates. In this country there is so strong a prejudice in favour of anything that professes to be sacred, national, and old, and the House of Lords is always so likely to assume the representation of this feeling, that it by no means follows that a bill sent up from the Commons by this majority will become in our time the law of the land. This may, therefore, still depend upon those who hold themselves emphatically the friends of the Church. If they choose to make a point of the matter, and to renew the opportunity with which they have often before maintained a bad position, they may succeed for a time. We will therefore address ourselves to them in particular, and ask them at once what good the Church of England gets by the Church-rates in return for their confessed anomaly, for the unsettled and absurd state of the law, for the heartburnings they create, and for the general damage done to the cause of religion, law, and truth, by the maintenance of a fiction and an unreality? One understands what it is to fight a losing fight for a glorious cause, for a country, for a principle, for a truth, or anything else that may decently be put in one scale when life is in the other, but we do not understand keeping up for our own lives, and transmitting to our children after us, a quarrel for the right of extorting shillings and sixpences for the maintenance of churches which the ratepayers themselves will not enter.

The *Times* contends that there is no equivalent for these manifest evils, which simply maintain the religious fiction that every Englishman is a member of the Church of England. Those who do not belong to the Church of England now number several millions. On the principles of that Church itself, Dissenters are justified in resistance. Nor can any one doubt that the resistance will increase continually, till it becomes the exception rather than the rule in our towns and populous districts. "Not that dissent is evidently on the increase, for it certainly is not; but a resistance to the Rates once begun will generally prevail in the end, and, once successful, will become the usage of the place. Then it must be considered, that though the grievance of the Dissenters is the loudest, it is by no means the only one. There is a continually increasing number of Church people who have to pay rates without an equivalent, or even to pay rates for a church they do not go to, while they are also paying voluntary subscriptions for the support of a chapel of ease or district church receiving no aid from the rates. In fact, while chapels increase, parish churches do not. The ten or twelve thousand country parishes are, happily, most of them under influences favourable to the voluntary appeal."

The present state of the law, says the *Times*, in conclusion, is admirably adapted "to set people by the ears," for it encourages Church people to demand rates, tells them they neglect a common law right if they do not, and at the same time it encourages Dissenters to refuse rates, telling them they are neglecting the rights of the majority if they pay them. Nobody can say this is a proper state of things, or for the good of the Church, or any part in the State, and the sooner it is brought to some final settlement, the better.

The *Daily News* continues its advocacy of the abolition of Church-rates, and freely opens its columns to the support of the movement. After maintaining that the impost is unjust, indefensible, and impossible to be maintained, the Liberal journal asks:—

What are we to substitute for them? The only answer to that question is—Nothing. Sir W. Clay's bill seems to place the matter on a fair footing: it goes for the abolition of Church-rates, and empowers the congregations of the various churches in connexion with the Establishment to meet and assess themselves for the maintenance of the fabric and the necessary expenses of Divine worship. Ministers, we understand, would prefer providing for the maintenance of parish churches and cathedrals by enacting that the sums required for this purpose should be taken out of some of the ecclesiastical funds. But in making this proposal, they forget that Church-rates press quite as unequally upon many members of the Establishment as upon Dissenters. A large and increasing number of the Churches in connexion with the Establishment are reared and maintained by voluntary subscriptions. They derive no advantage at present from the levying of Church-rates; they would not participate in the disbursements from the funds in question, or, if they were allowed to do so, would soon, by their increasing numbers, exhaust the funds. The most practical and equitable arrangement for Churchmen, as well as for Dissenters, is one of the nature recommended by Sir William Clay.

The London weekly papers have little say on the subject. The *Spectator* merely makes the remark, that the division on Thursday appears to put the Church-rate question in train for settlement; and the *Press* regards it as "a plain proof that if the friends of the Church do not exert themselves to settle this question, its enemies soon will." The *Record* observes a discreet silence.

The almost general concurrence of the Liberal provincial press in the principle of Sir W. Clay's bill makes it unnecessary for us to quote their opinions at any length. The *Sheffield Independent*, in advertising to the late seizures at Thirsk, makes this timely remark:—

To the now probable abolition of these offensive eccle-

statistical exactions, the quiet testimony and passive resistance of the Society of Friends have undoubtedly contributed; for had it not been for them, it is likely the public sentiment, which at present so urgently demands their repeal, would not have yet been formed, or at least would not have acquired the strength which has made the Legislature at length respect its voice, and secured for it the approval of the vast majority of the population.

The Bucks Advertiser says:—

The great struggle will be in committee, where no doubt every effort will be made to introduce some insidious compromise. Now is the time for constituencies to look after their members, and assure them that there must be no mistake on this matter. We must have the bill, the whole bill, and nothing else than the bill, at least from the Commons, and that during the present session. It will then be time enough to consider how to deal with the Lords.

OUR CHURCH-RATE RECORD.

ST. CLEMENT DANES.—On Monday evening, a public meeting of the inhabitants of St. Clement Danes was held at the Wheatsheaf Tavern, Vere-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, for the purpose of adopting measures to defeat the attempt made by churchwardens of the parish to levy a Church-rate of 3d. in the pound. Mr. Crossley, of Newcastle-street, took the chair. The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, remarked that there were nearly 200 summonses out against ratepayers. He believed Church-rates were oppressive and illegal, and he trusted that the result of this meeting would be that the impost would be removed. (Hear.) Mr. G. R. Jones moved a resolution to the effect that the churchwardens, Messrs. Williter and Dobby, having failed to confirm the rate, and refused to cite in the Ecclesiastical Court any parishioner to try the validity of the rate, when called upon to do so, and having issued so great a number of summonses, have pursued an arbitrary and vindictive course against their fellow ratepayers. He had himself resisted the Church-rate. He had been before the magistrate, but still had not paid it, nor would he until he was legally compelled to do so. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Parry seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Collins moved that a petition be drawn up and signed by the ratepayers, and that the members for Westminster be requested to present the same to the House of Commons. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion, which was carried.

BRISTOL.—In the parish of St. Augustine, Bristol, there is a great stir on the subject of Church-rates. At the Police-court, on Tuesday, Messrs. Stephen Bendall, Shattock, Braham, Wallcott, Davis, Coles, Johnson, &c., were summoned before the sitting magistrates for non-payment of Church-rates, for the parish of St. Augustine. Mr. C. Ward, for the churchwardens, informed the magistrates that a large number of ratepayers of the parish, including many Churchmen, had declined to pay the rates unless they were enforced equally upon all the parishioners. Under these circumstances proceedings were taken. Three of the gentlemen, Messrs. Bendall, Braham, and Coles, declared their intention of contesting the rate in the Ecclesiastical Court, on the ground that it was rejected by eight to one in vestry. The other parties summoned declining to do more than protest on conscientious grounds, orders were made against them. Mr. Herapath, one of the sitting magistrates, said the parishioners of St. Augustine should do like the parish of St. Philip and Jacob. The inhabitants resisted a rate, about 1,500/- was spent on both sides, and there had never been a rate made since. If a single individual attempted it, he would be crushed. Mr. Braham, of the Jewish persuasion, said that his Sabbath (Saturday) had been chosen as the day to serve him with a summons. He further said:

I will oppose the rate and fight it out—fight it on public grounds, and I believe that I shall have all the well-meaning citizens of Bristol with me. If the vestry would follow the Bible, and do what was stated in the Book of Kings, by putting a box at the church door, they would get ample funds.

The parishioners of Lofthouse, North Yorkshire, have rejected a proposition for a Church-rate, though strongly supported by the rector, by fifty to six votes.

EPPING.—On the 30th March, Mr. William Nathan, of Loughton, Essex, appeared before the magistrates pursuant to a summons for non-payment of a Church-rate. The justice-room was crowded by an audience who appeared to take great interest in the proceedings. When the case was called on, Mr. Churchwarden Philby, addressing the Bench, said he had been thirty years churchwarden, and that was the first time he had been compelled to bring any party before the justices for refusing to pay a Church-rate, and expressed his regret that he should have to do so now. He endeavoured to prove the making of the rate, and produced the clerk, who proved that he had posted one notice on the Church, but was not able to prove that notices had been placed on the Dissenting places of worship. The rate-book was produced, but the title of it did not agree with the notice.—The defendant when called upon for his reply, thanked the churchwardens for the manner in which they had thus far conducted the case. His main reason for refusing to pay the rate was a conviction that the compulsory support of religion was injurious to it; but he should serve the magistrates with a notice that he objected to the validity of the rate, and this would oust their jurisdiction. Having read the notice, he handed it to the chairman, and referred him to the case of Dale v. Pollard.—After consultation, the magistrates said they should disregard the notice and proceed to adjudicate, if defendant did not give some reasons for objecting to the validity of the rate.—Defendant said he was not bound to give his reasons, but, out of respect to the magistrate, he would mention one or two. The notice was insufficient, as it did not say that the rate was to

be made for the current expenses of the year. The rate was made for the year commencing January, 1854, and ending January, 1855, whereas the churchwardens had no power to make a rate beyond Easter, 1854, when they went out of office. The compound property in the parish was assessed at the compound, and not at the full rating. Previous rates were not collected of the compound occupiers, and the rate was excessive. He had more objections, but those he thought were sufficient.—After a reply from Mr. Philby, the magistrates retired with their clerk to consider their decision, and on their return, after a long absence, the chairman said they had decided to order the defendant to pay.—Mr. Nathan said that he did not intend any disrespect to the Bench, but must decline to pay, and of course bring his action, if they issued their warrant.—The chairman said they must issue it, but would make it as little disagreeable to defendant as they could.—Mr. Churchwarden Philby then interposed, and requested the Bench to postpone the issue of their warrants, as he should be able to report that the rate was paid. He was quite satisfied with the decision in his favour.—Mr. Nathan said that if the churchwarden paid that rate it would not be with his consent, and that he was no party to such an arrangement. In the course of his address Mr. Nathan mentioned the case of the Queen v. Collins and another Justice of Durham, reported in the *Law Times* of 31st January, 1852, p. 239.

CHURCH-RATES, CHICHESTER.—About a fortnight ago, a vestry was held in the parish of St. Olave's, Chichester, to make a Church-rate, when a rate was proposed of 1½d. in the pound, and an offer was made by one of the Dissenters to forego any opposition to the granting of it, if the vestry would agree to a petition for the entire abolition of Church-rates, but some of the ultra-reformers rejected the idea. The rate was refused by a majority of one, after which the petition was carried by a large majority, signed by the chairman of the vestry, one of the churchwardens, and sent to J. A. Smith, M.P. for the city, for presentation. The ultra-reformers, being thus defeated, called another vestry on Tuesday last, when, having made a regular canvass of the parish, and constrained five poor persons for whom the rates were paid to come to the poll, they obtained a majority for a rate; but, as it is probable that some mistakes have been made by the Church and State zealots, it is thought that very likely the Dissenters will resist the exactation also.

CHURCH-RATES, AT TWERTON, NEAR BATH.—This parish, which last year resolved no longer quietly to submit to the infliction of Church-rates, has again been successful in getting clear of the burden. A vestry-meeting was called on Monday, March 26, with a view to levy a rate of one penny in the pound. A motion to that effect was submitted to the vestry by the Vicar. An amendment was, however, proposed by the Rev. E. Clarke, "that no rate be granted." The amendment, on being put to the meeting, was carried by an overwhelming majority.

ANTI-MAYNOOTH AGITATION.

The Committee appointed by the Protestant Conference, held on the 1st March, have issued an address recommending the concentration of the efforts of Protestants throughout the country on one object—the disendowment of the Romish College of Maynooth.

The action of Protestant societies on this subject has been stayed during two-and-twenty months, out of respect to the Royal Commission of Inquiry.

The Report of the Commissioners has now been presented. It assumes throughout that the endowment is to be continued, and its recommendations chiefly relate to alterations in the internal management of the institution, and the application of the fund, drawn from the Protestant people of the empire.

The objections, however, of British Protestants rest upon principle. Whatever variety of opinion may subsist amongst them, as to the endowment of religion, they unite in objecting to the existence of a national institution designed to destroy Protestantism and to propagate Popery, at a time when its most vigorous efforts are directed to bring the country into subjection to a foreign power.

The Committee further contend that the original plea for the Maynooth endowment has failed. For if 40,000/- have been raised during the last two years towards the establishment of a "Catholic University," the necessities of the Church of Rome cannot be pleaded for a public grant. It is therefore urged that the withdrawal of all grants to Maynooth is a matter of imperative necessity. Towards effecting this object the Committee were instructed—

I. To prepare for the introduction of a bill into Parliament. Arrangements are now making for this purpose, and members of different political views are prepared to co-operate.

II. To summon an aggregate meeting in London on the 17th April, at which three influential Protestants, without reference to politics, appointed, if possible, at a public meeting, from each constituency, may attend.

III. To prepare, and submit to such meeting, a clear and unmistakable resolution as to what description of candidates Protestants ought not to vote for at the next general election, together with suggestions for electoral action in each locality.

The aggregate meeting is appointed to be held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on Tuesday, April 17th, and following days. At that meeting, important information respecting the proceedings to be taken in Parliament, on the subject of Maynooth, will be communicated. The Committee now urge the IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTIES, to be chosen at a public meeting or otherwise, as may be deemed desirable.

Personal attendance may involve some personal

inconvenience, but without some sacrifices no great object can be achieved. A small subscription in each place would defray the expense.

"This movement is commenced in no spirit of personal hostility towards our Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen, but with a deep conviction that their interest, as distinguished from that of the Romish priesthood, is involved in its success equally with our own. It is earnestly hoped, therefore, that all who engage in this effort will labour with a zeal tempered by Christian love, in humble reliance upon God for His blessing, and in assured hope that He will vouchsafe success.

(Signed) "J. C. COLQUHOUN, Chairman.

Communications to be addressed to the Chairman, Protestant Conference, Peele's Coffee House, 177, Fleet-street, London."

THE ARCHBISHOP OF IRELAND.—In the Archbishops' Palace of Armagh, on Thursday, an address from the prelates and clergy of Ireland was presented to the venerable primate, on the occasion of his completing the fiftieth year of his episcopate. The address, which is understood to have been drawn up by his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, bore the signatures of all the bishops, and of more than 1,900 clergymen of the Established Church in Ireland.

ANOTHER PERVERT.—The Rev. Edward B. Deane, D.C.L., vicar of Lewknor, Oxfordshire, has resigned his benefice, and has been received into the Church of Rome. Dr. Deane was presented to his living in 1812 by All Souls College, Oxford, of which society he was a fellow.

COURTAULD'S TESTIMONIAL.—A contributor to this fund writes: "I belong to the Church myself, but feel convinced, if it cannot be kept in repair by voluntary aid from its own community, the time has come when Dissenters (remembering their number) cannot with justice be taxed for its support. Indeed, I think Dissenters are going to prove themselves the only safeguard to religious liberty that we, the people of England, possess; and therefore, although not one of their body, I think their cause is worthy of encouragement from every well-wisher to his country."

Religious Intelligence.

WEEKLY TRACT SOCIETY.—The Rev. W. H. Elliott, who has recently resigned the office of Travelling Secretary of this Society, will shortly enter upon the duties of the appointment he has accepted in the service of another Institution.

HORTON-LANE CHAPEL, BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE.—The Congregational Church and congregation assembling in this chapel are on the eve of presenting a cordial and unanimous invitation to the Rev. J. R. Campbell, M.A., of Edinburgh, to succeed their late beloved and much lamented pastor, the Rev. Jonathan Glyde.

APPRENTICESHIP SOCIETY.—The half-yearly meeting of the above Society was held at the Congregational Library, Finsbury-circus, on Tuesday morning, March 27th, 1855, the Rev. John Adey in the Chair. Four candidates out of twelve were elected to the benefit of the Institution. Deep regret was expressed at the decease of C. J. Metcalf, Esq., founder of the Society; and W. B. Gurney, Esq., one of its earliest supporters. We are pleased to find that plans were devised for rendering this useful Society still more efficient.

GERRARD'S CROSS.—**HOMEOPATHY TO THE CRIMEA.**—At Hedgerley Church, near Gerrard's Cross, on the day of humiliation, the Rev. Edward Baylis, the rector, preached a sermon and made a collection in behalf of the object proposed by the English Homeopathic Association, of sending out *arsenic* to the Crimea and a homeopathic practitioner. A larger collection than was ever before made in the parish was made on that occasion, the poor putting in their pennies.

RESIGNATION OF THE REV. GEORGE CLAYTON.—On the evening of the 29th March, at York-street Chapel, Walworth, after the delivery of the weekly lecture by the Rev. P. J. Turquand, the junior pastor, a letter was read from the Rev. George Clayton, the senior pastor, expressive of his deep regret in being compelled, by increasing infirmities, to relinquish the pastorate which he had been permitted to sustain nearly fifty-two years. The letter spoke of the ardent affection he had ever cherished, and should to his latest day continue to cherish, towards a people to whom for so many years he had been attached by so many ties. It expressed his earnest desire for the peace and prosperity of the flock; and it strongly commended his beloved coadjutor Mr. Turquand, in whom he reposed the highest confidence, to the sympathies, affections, and prayers of the church and congregation. In reply to this communication, a letter was unanimously approved by the meeting, expressive of deep regret at the retirement of Mr. Clayton, of the delight with which the people had for so lengthened a period listened to his instructions and counsels, of their sincere wishes and earnest prayers that he might enjoy, during the remainder of his days, much of the Divine presence and blessing, and that he and his attached flock might meet in that blessed world where separation and adieu are sounds unknown.

TESTIMONIAL TO THE REV. J. SPENCER OF TIPPING- STREET CHAPEL.—The members of the church and congregation connected with the chapel in Tipping-street held a social tea meeting on Tuesday evening last, for the purpose of presenting a testimonial, accompanied with a purse of money, writing desk, &c. to the Rev. J. Spencer, their minister. The meeting held on Tuesday evening, originally projected under the idea, that it would be the "farewell tea party," was of a very pleasing character, in consequence of Mr. Spencer having led the friends to anticipate that he would withdraw his resignation on the occasion. The

room was densely crowded with an enthusiastic audience. Tea being despatched, one of the members of the church presented, on behalf of the church and congregation, to Mr. Spencer a purse containing twenty-seven pounds, a handsome mounted writing desk, and a number of fancy articles contributed by the children of the Sabbath-school to Mr. Spencer's children. The written testimonial, which was read, expressed the feelings of affection and esteem in which Mr. Spencer was held by his people, and the deep regret with which they had heard of his intended removal. Mr. Spencer responded in a suitable and feeling manner to these expressions of love and affection, and stated his intention of remaining amongst such kind friends as he had found himself surrounded with. The announcement was received with enthusiastic marks of approbation; and after appropriate addresses were delivered by the Revs. D. E. Ford, of Broughton; J. Sulcliffe, of Longsight; J. Muncaster, of Broughton; W. Trail, of St Andrew's Free Church; J. Wheeldon, of Ardwick; J. Palmer, of Ashley Lane; and — Fordyce; the meeting broke up.—*Manchester Examiner.*

LEEDS YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE.—On Wednesday last a tea-meeting was held in this town, at which about three hundred persons sat down, and afterwards a public meeting, presided over by Edward Baines, Esq., for the purpose of appointing a committee who should take the necessary steps for forming a Leeds Young Men's Christian Institute. For some time past, there have existed in connexion with most of the congregations, both Church of England and the various Dissenting denominations, associations of young men, among whom papers have been read and topics of interest discussed. The time has now come when those who have taken a leading part in such associations think that the young men ought to combine for aggressive movement as well as for mutual improvement. The meeting was addressed by the chairman, the Revs. G. W. Conder and H. R. Reynolds (Independents), J. Tunnicliffe (Baptist), N. S. Godfrey (Church of England), W. Guest (Independent); also by Messrs. Butler, Heaton, and Hewgill. The assembly, consisting chiefly of young men, warmly responded to the sentiments of these gentlemen. A numerous committee were appointed, and will enter upon their duties with high hopes of presenting to their townsmen, in due time, an institution at once catholic in its basis and practical in its details.

HOME FOR FOREIGNERS.—A public meeting to promote the establishment of a "Home" for Asiatics, Africans, South Sea Islanders, and others, while sojourning in the port of London, was held at the London Tavern, on Wednesday. Sir Edward North Buxton, Bart., who was in the chair, opened the proceedings by referring to the unfavourable impression respecting Christian England, produced in heathen lands by the reports of natives who had lived in this country, neglected and unnoticed, and to the consequent duty of establishing a "Home," in which they might be received and cared for during their residence amongst us. The object of the meeting was briefly explained by the Rev. Henry Venn (Church Missionary Society). Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes followed, with a report of the provisional committee, which showed 5,000 to be the lowest estimate of the number of heathen and Mahomedan foreigners, who annually visit the metropolis and the outports. Their sufferings from the want of proper accommodation in this inclement climate, and their ignorance of the English language, which made them easy victims to the dishonest, were described as extremely deplorable. Colonel Hughes related several affecting instances of distress and suffering which had come under his own notice, in personal visits to the lodgings of Lascars and others, and made an energetic appeal in their behalf to the Christian public. The Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, and J. M. Strachan, Esq., then spoke, promising their cordial support. The Rev. Dr. Tidman (London Missionary Society) said he had not the slightest conception of the amount of misery which existed amongst the class in question, before learning the striking facts related by Colonel Hughes; and thought they only required to be made public to ensure the liberal support of Christians of all denominations. Wm. Baker, Esq., Coroner for East Middlesex, W. E. Hubbard, Esq., and the Rev. Wm. Arthur, also advocated the object before the meeting. A vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed by Sir J. Logan (in behalf of his Highness Maharajah Duleep Singh, who was on the platform), seconded by Mr. Strachan, and unanimously accorded. The Prince, who has presented the committee with 500*l.*, was warmly applauded by the meeting.

Correspondence.

REPRESENTATION OF WALES.*

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

Newbury, March 22, 1855.

DEAR SIR.—The ventilation of this subject in the *Nonconformist* will have excited the gratitude of many of your readers. Should it lead to any practical steps for the purpose of securing a fairer reflection of the mind and heart of the Principality in the House of Commons, you will, I am sure, be far from regretting that you opened your pages to the discussion.

I should not at present have troubled you with any more thoughts of mine on the question, if I had not found from your correspondence this week, that the extreme compression at which I aimed in my former note has laid me open to some little misconception.

I am happy to find that there is no real difference of opinion between Mr. Salisbury and myself. His date appear to be drawn more particularly from North Wales, while mine relate almost exclusively to the South. As

* This letter was crowded out of our last Number, but we insert it this week by way of completing a discussion of great practical importance.

it respects my complaint of a want of representative material, Mr. Salisbury really corroborates the truth of that complaint, by naming one gentleman of local influence and of the right stamp, who he thinks might be induced to undertake the responsibilities of a senator. Suppose we add to this one Mr. Salisbury himself (and I should certainly be disposed to give him my vote), we are still far in the rear of our wishes. Mr. Salisbury asks, "Does Mr. Drew mean to say that there are not many among the sons of Cambria, who have the means, ability, ambition, and readiness to serve their country in that way?" I certainly do mean to say, as a matter of fact, that they have not yet been found. The instances in which such men have presented themselves at a general election have been very few. I am disposed to admit that if the electors called for them they would, in many cases, be found; but here, Sir, is the gist of my argument, viz., that the people won't believe in the ability of men of their own order to represent them in Parliament; while a star, or a coronet, or a title, acts upon them like charity, hiding a multitude of sins. It is this philo-aristocracy, this ingrained funkeyism, of the whole British nation, that has so nearly brought us to the brink of universal ruin at the present hour. Was ever such a solecism known before, that a great commercial, mercantile, and industrial people, at one of the most critical junctures in its history, could not lay its hand on a few men able enough to conduct its affairs without the most childish and wicked blunders; but must entrust its dearest interests to a clique of hopeless incapables, just because they had the accident in their favour of being born to certain conventional distinctions, and in a condition precisely the best adapted to disqualify them for the efficient service of their country?

Another of your correspondents, Rev. D. M. Davies, thinks himself at issue with me on the subject of education. This, however, I conceive, arises from the different meanings which we attach to that word. I readily grant that, so far as reading, writing, and arithmetic constitute education, the youth of the Principality are for the most part every whit as well educated as the youth of corresponding classes throughout England. But I am convinced Mr. Davies will agree with me when I aver that such acquisitions go but a very little way towards fitting a man for the ordinary duties of life; to say nothing (which is the point in question) of senatorial honours and obligations. The education desiderated in Wales, as in all insulated districts, is that which is obtained by free intercourse with the great world, by popular contact with the general literature of the day, by familiarity with the grand discoveries of science and art, and by careful observation of the great social machine in all the complications of its framework and in all the mystery of its working. Now it is well known that a large proportion of the Welsh people are cut off from all communion with their English fellow-citizens by the China-wall of a language to which they are devotedly attached, and from the peculiarities of whose tone and accent the most aspiring of their young people find it so difficult to deliver themselves. Nothing so tends to fuse the inhabitants of different provinces as speaking the same language; while nothing isolates and estranges them more than speaking different dialects. Welsh being spoken by so small a proportion of the inhabitants of these isles, the great and splendid issues of man's brain can never find their way into that tongue, and as long as Cambria's children learn completely no other, they must suffer whatever disadvantages are entailed by intellectual isolation and disunion. Moreover, in the English parts of the Principality, little has been done for the general enlightenment of the popular mind. Numbers of towns are without public libraries, mechanic's institutes, and reading rooms. Comparatively few newspapers read; fewer still of the first-class reviews and other periodicals; so that, with a few exceptions, the people have no opportunity of informing themselves relatively to the great elements and movements of their own time. Under such circumstances, can we expect constituencies to understand their obligations, to stand up for their dignities and rights; or to resist the pressure of an influence always at their doors and ever ready to apply itself without relenting and without scruple? Still am I bound to believe that the remedy for so frightful an evil is education,—such an education as can fit men to act rightly their parts on the world's grand theatre, and as shall compel them to repudiate the servile principle, that to obtain able statesmen and legislators, they must go as far as possible from their own class—from men conversant with their own wants and sympathising with their own principles.

The Dissenters of Wales do not lack conscience, but light. Let them have the latter, and you will find they can be heroes again. You will not hear of their ministers voting for Churchmen and Tories for the sake of "peace." They will say, "Away with peace! To the battle first. After that will come peace, because victory and freedom. No tyrants, no Church-rates, no priestly ascendancy. We will be as free as our own mountain winds."

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

JOSEPH DREW.

THE MAYNOOTH COLLEGE GRANT.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

DEAR SIR.—It is evident that our success as Protestant Dissenters in securing the objects which our principles require, will be materially increased by availing ourselves of any favourable impression in the public mind towards any of the objects we desire, by using the opportunity in redoubling our efforts for their accomplishment. An instance of this kind is clearly furnished by the present aspect of Church-rates. It is admitted on all hands that their extinction or continuance mainly rests with Dissenters themselves; i.e., that they have it in their power to make such a demonstration on the subject, that, in the present crisis, it would prove irresistible. Mr. Editor, am I assuming an untenable position in holding that the Maynooth Grant furnishes a parallel case? On all hands appear symptoms of an approaching agitation, and many of the Romanists themselves appear disinclined to resist the demand; as the following incident will show. Some two years since I breakfasted with a gentleman in the coffee-room of an hotel; discovering in the course of conversation that we were proceeding to the same town, and had several hours to wait for the coach, we decided on being companions until we reached our destination. His introduction to me as a Catholic priest, and mine to him as a congregational Dissenter, with the cathedral of the city as the object of our inspection, presented sufficient grounds for introducing politico-religious subjects

for conversation. The policy of Dissenters in opposing the grant was then discussed; I stated that the Irish Church was our ulterior object, and he assured me that the opposition of the Dissenters had always appeared to him far more disinterested and a matter of stricter principle than that of the English Churchman. The gentleman, I subsequently learnt, was a bishop of the Romish Church. I have more faith in our attachment to our principles than to suppose that, with the Maynooth Grant as a key to the Irish Church, and with that key in our reach, we should fail to secure it, and thus, with a brilliant return for all our labours in view, through supineness should let it slip.

Sir, I trust that the influence of the Religious Liberation Society, and the aid of your powerful pen, will assist in accomplishing this most desirable object.

Very sincerely yours,
March 31st, 1855.

A VOLUNTARY.

PUBLICATIONS FOR THE TIMES.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

DEAR SIR.—I beg to be permitted to ask the attention of your readers to a list of publications, advertised in your columns, this week, and which are just ready for delivery.

No more favourable time than the present could have been chosen for the introduction of the Church-rate Abolition Bill, inasmuch as the Easter Vestries will afford an opportunity for a fresh manifestation of public feeling, in the shape of resistance to rates, and of vestry petitions in favour of Sir W. Clay's bill. In conducting contests, and in subsequent proceedings before the magistrates, Mr. Wills's "Treatise on the Power and Duties of Parish Vestries in Ecclesiastical Matters," will, I anticipate, prove to be of great practical value.

The new issue of bills and tracts will, it is believed, be found to be specially suitable for circulation at the present time, and it is suggested that arrangements should be made for their wide distribution in anticipation of contests and seizures, as well as in canvassing for signatures to petitions.

I may refer specifically to another work, the necessity for which has been made apparent by correspondence and intelligence which have lately appeared in your columns. The pamphlet on "Burial Grounds and Burial Boards" contains a careful abstract of the acts of Parliament by which interments are now regulated, explanatory statements and practical directions being added. In all cases where Burial Boards are about to be constituted, or grounds to be opened, the parties concerned will, it is hoped, avail themselves of the information thus afforded.

Yours truly,

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS.

2, Serjeants'-inn, Fleet-street, April 3.

THE CHURCH-RATE STRUGGLE.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

DEAR SIR.—Permit me to urge the importance of Church-rate contests in the present parliamentary struggle for the abolition of this unrighteous exaction.

Acting on the suggestion of your correspondent, "LL.D." last summer, we contested the making of a Church-rate to the utmost, and although it was our first attempt, succeeded even in this squire and clergy-ruled town, in obtaining a minority of two-thirds of the voting rate-payers against this impost: this was done at little expense and with good feeling on both sides.

As "LL.D." well observed, all that is wanting is a common share of intelligence, and a little courage. The "Guide" just published under the auspices of the Liberation Society, will aid the first, and surely an earnest conviction of right should give the latter. Let those who have not tried their hands in this matter do so on the very first opportunity, and I will answer for it they will be astonished at their success.

Sir Wm. Clay's bill has passed its first stage triumphantly, but the debate pretty clearly indicates, that its future progress in the Commons will be contested inch by inch, and this, too, with the Peers' "cold shade" looming in the distance.

Let each Church-rate abolitionist take your motto, "Action! action! action!" as his watchword.

By parish contests, petitions to Parliament, and memorials to representatives, let there be "a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether," and we shall soon see "the consummation devoutly to be wished."

Yours very faithfully,

CHARLES ROSE.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes Bill and Bills of Exchange Bill, against the former and in favour of the latter, 5.

Border Marriages, for prevention of, 4.

Church Rates, for abolition of, 123.

Distillation from Grain, for prohibition of, 4.

Intoxicating Liquors, for prohibiting the sale of, on the Lord's day, 50.

for prohibiting the sale of, 4.

Lord's-day, against opening places of amusement on, 4.

Newspaper Stamps Bill, in favour of, 8.

against, 2.

against, and in favour of original Bill, 6.

Peace, in favour of, 1.

Polish Independence, in favour of, 1.

Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill, against, 2.

Schools (Scotland) Bill, against, 11.

in favour of, 28.

for alteration of, 2.

Stage Carriages, for abolition of mileage duty, 9.

Dwelling-houses (Scotland) Bill, in favour of, 1.

Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) Advances Bill, against, 2.

Mines, for subjecting to public burdens, 2.

Public Health Bill, against, 2.

Roman Catholic Religion, against encouragement of, 1.

Sale of Beer Bill, for repeal of, 2.

Army, for improvement of condition, 1.

Burial Grounds (Scotland) Bill, for alteration, 2.

Nuisances Removal Amendment Bill, against, 2.

Sunday Trading (Metropolis), for further restricting, 2.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Convention with Sardinia Bill.

Education (Scotland) Bill.

Places of Religious Worship Registration Bill.

Church Rates Abolition Bill.

Parliamentary Registration (Scotland) Act Amendment Bill.

BILL READ A SECOND TIME.

Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes Bill.

Ecclesiastical Property (Ireland) Bill.
Convention with Sardinia Bill.

BILLS CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.
Friendly Societies Bill.
Convention with Sardinia Bill.

DEBATES.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE BILL.

This bill, which had passed the House of Lords, stood for the second reading in the House of Commons on Wednesday. It provides that a Registration Court for dishonoured bills of exchange shall be established; and that, on notice of dishonour being served upon persons who were parties to them, immediate execution may, with leave of the judge, be issued against their effects. It also gave holders of dishonoured bills of exchange priority over other creditors. There is another bill before the House on the same subject, brought in by Mr. Keating, called the Exchange and Promissory Notes Bills.

An opposition was raised to the former bill by Mr. VANCE, because it would interfere with the jurisdiction of the Irish Courts; and he moved to postpone the second reading for six months. In this course he was supported by Mr. Muntz, Mr. Gurney, and Mr. Spooner; who alleged that the bill would ruin multitudes, especially small traders, and that it is unjust to give the holders of bills of exchange priority. On the other hand, Sir Erskine Perry, Mr. Napier, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Baines, and Mr. Glyn, supported the principle of the bill. Sir Frederick Thesiger and the Attorney-General agreed in thinking that some measure is necessary for the purpose of preventing frauds, and clearing the commercial atmosphere, and expressed their approval of a suggestion made in debate that both bills should be referred to a Select Committee.

Ultimately the House divided on the second reading of the Bills of Exchange Bill, and it was carried by 114 to 58. Mr. Keating's Bill was then read a second time, and both bills were ordered to be referred to a Select Committee.

UNION OF BENEFICES.

Mr. FREWEN moved the second reading of the Union of Benefices Bill. This bill proposed that benefices three miles apart should not be united where the annual income of one is 200*l.* a year; that masters of colleges and endowed schools shall reside on their livings; and that where churches have been allowed to go to ruin, the incumbent still receiving his stipend, the Bishop may sequester the revenue till a sum is raised sufficient to rebuild the church. The measure met with opposition from all sides, and the second reading was negatived by 112 to 30.

SEATS IN PARLIAMENT.

Mr. WRIGHTSON moved the second reading of the Vacating of Seats in Parliament Bill. Mr. Williams, Mr. Bentinck, Mr. Hadfield, Mr. Henley, and Sir Frederick Thesiger, opposed the further progress of the measure; alleging that it would interfere with the rights of the constituencies. Sir George Grey, Mr. Stuart Wortley, and Mr. Beckett Denison, denied that it would interfere with the rights of constituencies. If the Crown were not so embarrassed in the choice of its servants, the right man would be oftener found in the right place. On a division, the bill was thrown out by 73 to 69.

INTRAMURAL BURIALS (IRELAND) BILL.

On the second reading of this bill on Thursday, The Bishop of EXETER said that the bill empowered the Government, by an order in Council, to close all burial-grounds, without imposing the slightest obligation to provide other burial-grounds for the parishes and places the grounds of which were so closed. He therefore begged to move that the bill be read a second time that day six months.

The Bishop of LONDON remarked on the evils which had attended the English measure. At the east end of London bodies were daily being taken in all kinds of conveyances to unconsecrated ground and committed to the grave, after Divine service had been read over them by the gravedigger, who put on a surplice for the purpose. It was difficult to describe the abominable nuisances which arose from the defect in the law, not making it imperative on the parishes to provide new burial-grounds before the old ones were closed, and he urged upon the Government the duty of correcting that great moral and social evil, and making provision for the decent burial of the dead in this vast metropolis.

Earl GRANVILLE admitted that inconveniences had arisen, but at the same time believed the parishes were taking steps to provide proper burial-grounds in lieu of those which were closed. He agreed to postpone the committee until after Easter.

Earl GREY said that the House had been horrified last year by the statements of the right rev. prelate (the Bishop of London) as to the working of the Metropolitan Interment Act, and he had then recommended the right rev. prelate not to be satisfied with the declaration of the Government that the thing should be done. He trusted that the right rev. prelate would move for a select committee to inquire into the question, and to ascertain by whose fault it was that these abuses were allowed to exist.

Lord REDESDALE wished to point out that if summary powers were given to close burial-grounds, summary powers ought also to be given to provide other burial-grounds. If such powers were not given, the disgusting exhibitions which had taken place upon the burial of paupers in this country would be repeated in an exaggerated form in Ireland.

The bill was then read a second time.

TREATMENT OF CHRISTIAN CONVERTS IN TURKEY.

Mr. PELLATT asked the First Lord of the Treasury, whether there still existed in Turkey a law which condemns to death a Mussulman convert to Christianity; and, if so, whether this Government, or our Allies, the French, have or intend exercising this influence to abolish so unjust a punishment?

Lord PALMERSTON: The honourable member will

see, if he refers to the papers which were laid upon the table in May, 1844, called "Correspondence relative to executions in Turkey for apostacy from Islamism," that Sir S. Canning, on the 23rd March of that year, writes a despatch, in which he states that he has obtained an assurance from the Sultan, and a formal document from the Turkish Government, providing that no such executions should take place in future. In giving an account of the audience which he had with the Sultan upon the subject, he says—

"What passed at this audience is the more important from its formal character; and the Sultan, to give a greater value to it, after I had retired from his presence, called back the dragoman and desired him to assure me that what he had stated in public proceeded from his sincere convictions, and was, in fact, his real and sincere sentiment."

The official document to which Sir S. Canning referred stated that, in relinquishing the practice of executions for apostacy, it was the special intention of His Highness the Sultan that the cordial relations with the high Powers should be preserved, and the Sublime Porte engaged to take effectual measures to prevent from henceforward the execution of any persons for apostacy.

Mr. PELLATT: Does not that apply to Christians becoming Mussulmans and then apostatising, and not to the case which I have put?

Lord PALMERSTON: I understand it to apply to the whole case.

ODESSA.

In the Commons, on Thursday, Mr. SCOTT moved for copies of instructions to the Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, and correspondence relative to the attack on Odessa. In supporting the motion, he arraigned the whole policy pursued towards that port, and replied by anticipation to the objections which might be offered to the production of the papers. For the sake of Admiral Dundas himself, he wanted to know, he said, what were his instructions, and whether he had or not ample discretion. Sir C. Wood said the same reasons which induced him to object altogether to the motion precluded him replying to any portion of the speech of Mr. Scott which had the slightest reference to his motion. If there had been any correspondence or instructions upon this subject, to produce them would at once disclose to the enemy the views and intentions of our Commanders as to the probability or the reverse of an attack on Odessa. He objected to such disclosures while hostilities were in operation. Mr. STAFFORD observed that the papers would amply vindicate the Admiral, whose silence, he remarked, contrasted favourably with some examples. Lord PALMERSTON said the character of Admiral Dundas stood high as an officer of Her Majesty's naval service, and there was no part of his conduct while employed that had not done honour to him.

LORD LUCAN'S CASE.

Then followed a long debate on Lord Lucan's case. Taking an independent stand, Mr. HENRY BERKELEY moved an address to the Queen, praying that she would order a court-martial upon Lord Lucan. Lord ELCHO entered into the merits of the case; cited precedents, and made a thoroughgoing defence of his noble relative. Mr. CHARLES VILLIERS expounded the military law which prevented the holding of a court-martial in this case. Mr. DISRAELI said that the motion called upon the House to interfere with the prerogative; which he could not sanction. Still, he felt a great sympathy with Lord Lucan, and regarded him as a "victim" offered up by the late Minister of War to "public indignation." Lord PALMERSTON distinctly stated that Lord Lucan was not recalled for anything faulty in his conduct, but because differences had arisen between him and Lord Raglan which would have impaired the public service. The Duke of Newcastle was quite incapable of offering up Lord Lucan as a victim. The whole Cabinet was responsible for the recall.

The motion was withdrawn.

THE MILITIA.

On the motion for the third reading of the Militia (Ireland) Bill, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH revived two points which he has urged on previous occasions. First, that as we must look to the recruitment of the Army mainly to the Militia, as we did in the last war, some means should be taken to bring the Militia up to the nominal force; secondly, that the commander of the Land Transport Corps in the Crimea should have the power of providing for the feeding of his animals.

Lord PANMURE and Earl GREY did not agree with Lord Ellenborough that the Militia should be the nursery of the Line. In the last war, the reason why so large a number of recruits to the army passed through the Militia was, that the men got higher bounty by first entering the Militia than by directly entering the Army. As to the second point, if Lord Ellenborough's suggestion were adopted, there would be two Commissaries bidding in one market, and neither would properly perform its duties.

ABOLITION OF CHURCH-RATES.

On the same evening, Sir W. CLAY, in moving for leave to introduce a bill for the abolition of Church-rates, said it was not his intention to touch upon debatable ground, or to enter upon arguments calculated to provoke opposition. The main object of his present measure was the total abolition of Church-rates, in which respect it was similar to the bill that he brought in last year; but it also comprised other provisions which might be considered as the consequence, and, indeed, the complement, of its primary provision. In the debate on this subject last session, the right hon. member for Oxfordshire (Mr. Henley) alleged certain difficulties which, should Church-rates

be abolished, would stand in the way of voluntary contributions being applied in their substitution; and, a subsequent examination of the state of the law having shown these difficulties to be real, fair dealing and consistency required that they should be obviated by some such measure. If Parliament, on the one hand, abolished Church-rates, it was bound, on the other, to remove all obstacles to members of the Church by free-will offerings maintaining her fabrics, and supporting the decent performance of her services and rites. The present bill, like that of last session, would provide for the continuance of Church-rates in all cases where charges had been contracted upon them as a security under the authority of existing acts of Parliament. The first purpose to which the new provisions of the measure were directed was to meet the condition of affairs that would exist after this impost had been removed. They would provide for the new position in which churchwardens would be placed in their relation to those persons who might voluntarily subscribe towards the support of the edifices and the ministrations of the church, and also for cases in which churchwardens might be reluctant to undertake such functions. It would likewise give the contributors to this voluntary fund a control over its application. It would be seen, therefore, that the general principle and tendency of the bill were based on an entire reliance upon the willingness of the members of the Church of England to maintain the edifices and the worship of her communion which had been handed down to them from their forefathers. The next object which its provisions sought to attain was to empower parishes, if so disposed, to allow a certain portion of the area of their churches for pews, to affix a rent to those pews, and to apply its produce to those purposes for which church-rates might now be legally appropriated. Such an application of pew-rents was consistent both with precedent and with widely-spread practice under the sanction of existing local and general Acts of Parliament. The measure required that in no case should more than a given proportion of the church be devoted to pews, and that another portion should be allotted for free sittings. This part of the bill was, however, in no way compulsory—every parish would decide in regard to it as it thought fit. Such, then, were the main provisions added by this measure to the absolute removal of Church-rates. They had been framed in a desire to alter the law as little as possible consistently with the attainment of their immediate object. With the important exception of the absolute repeal of this objectionable impost, they were chiefly of an enabling rather than of an imperative character. He had not the least intention to change the status of the Established Church, to diminish the rights or the authority of her dignitaries and ministers, and still less to impair, by a single iota, the powers, privileges, or immunities of the inhabitants of any parish, or to deprive any subject of the realm of whatever rights or advantages he enjoyed in regard to the Church as it now by law existed. This bill might not satisfy those who thought either that no alteration, or that but a very slight one, should be made in the present state of the law; but he certainly hoped that it would meet the views of those who, admitting the necessity not only of some considerable change, but of the entire abolition of Church-rates, were yet impressed with a sense of the difficulties incident to such a proposition. These provisions would make the bill workable in a practical shape. If the House would now consent to the introduction of the measure, he would take care that it should be in the hands of members immediately after the Easter recess, and that ample time should be given for the consideration of its details. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. WIGRAM said that there was not in the proposed bill any alteration whatever in principle or substance from the bill introduced last year. It was simply a bill to abolish Church-rates, with the addition of provisions to enable persons voluntarily to pay money to support the national churches. There was also in it a provision to enable a portion of the pews to be let, and to that provision many persons would feel a great objection, not so much in the great towns as in the rural parishes, where, also, on account of the poverty of the population, it would be difficult to obtain voluntary contributions for the maintenance of the fabric of the church. The proposition to abolish church-rates was founded on no plea of justice whatever, the land of the country being bound by law to provide for the repair of the churches. That was a common-law obligation, and the present owners had taken the land subject to that burden. The bill was also founded on no plea of expediency, for the churches were the national property of the country, and Dissenters as much as Churchmen were interested in the propagation through their means of sound morality and the principles of sound religion. The allegation on which the bill was founded—namely, that it was a violation of religious liberty and the rights of conscience to call upon people to support churches de-

voted to a religious service in which they did not concur—might be extended much beyond the purpose of the present measure, and made to apply to all endowments of the Church. He therefore trusted they would not allow the bill to be introduced. By the decision of the House of Lords, in the Braintree case, a Church-rate could not be raised without the concurrence of the majority, and therefore the grievance felt on former occasions no longer existed. If the Government would fulfil the pledge given last session to correct some of the inconveniences of the present law, which might easily be removed, he felt convinced that a bill for the abolition of Church-rates would be altogether unnecessary. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DAVIES concurred in the views of the last speaker. He believed that the bill would introduce dissensions among the members of the Church itself. He observed that by the commutation of tithe all strife on that subject had ceased, and he thought a bill relating to Church-rates might advantageously be brought in by the Government, separating the expense occasioned for the maintenance of the church from that occasioned for the elements consumed in the church, the first being made a charge on land, and the second being placed on the voluntary principle, and paid for by those who partook of them. He objected to the measure now proposed, and, with respect to letting pews, he could say that in two counties with which he was connected, there was not a single rural parish where a pew was paid for.

Mr. R. PHILLIMORE agreed with the hon. and learned gentleman who had just sat down, in thinking that it would have been much better if the Government had introduced a measure on this subject; but at the same time, it was not his intention to offer any opposition to the first reading of the hon. baronet's bill, as it would be unfair to him not to see and discuss the new clauses of which he had spoken, before coming to a final decision. The hon. baronet, however, was greatly mistaken if he thought he was recommending his bill to the support of Churchmen by his proposition to lay out the area of churches to the highest bidders for pews. (Hear.) Though, no doubt, the principle of pew-rents had been sanctioned by the Legislature in isolated instances, where there were no other means for the support of a minister, this was the first time that any attempt had been made to render the system general. To that clause he should offer a decided opposition. He should be glad to know if the hon. gentleman intended to include Scotland in this bill?

Mr. BAXTERICK objected to the time chosen for the introduction of this measure, when so many hon. members who would have been desirous to express their opinion of it even at this stage, were necessarily absent.

Lord STANLEY said, it seemed to be agreed on all hands that the present state of the law with regard to this subject was unsatisfactory. (Hear, hear.) Every Minister since the time of the Reform Bill had admitted it, and every Minister in succession had tried his hand as a remedy for the evil and had failed. No satisfactory compromise, therefore, having been effected after twenty-five years' discussion, it would be extremely unfair to refuse now to entertain a proposal to deal with the law in the only way in which, as he believed, it could be dealt with. (Hear.) With regard to the provisions of the bill, that which related to giving the churchwardens power to receive voluntary subscriptions for the repair of churches, ran some danger, he was afraid, of being misconceived. The difficulty, which, as he understood, was sought to be provided against was this—that, as the law at present stood, the churchwarden was responsible for the repairs of the church, and a hostile churchwarden might even now not merely refuse to take no part in levying a rate, but even to receive and apply voluntary subscriptions to the repair of the fabric. The question of pew-rents was one of detail, but he did not apprehend that the hon. baronet intended, as had been represented, to appropriate the whole area of any church for pews—(hear)—but, on the contrary, to leave a large, and probably the largest, portion for free seats. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DAUNMUND said, this was one of many instances in which, an error having been persisted in by our rulers, an alteration was at length pressed on them, which, though represented to be an amendment, was in reality a complete revolution. The churches of the land were national property, and the moment they admitted that it was not a national obligation to build those churches and to pay the ministers who officiated in them, they might as well pull down the church altogether. That was what the supporters of this bill meant, and why did not they say so at once? ("Hear, hear," from Colonel Sibthorp.) The fact was, that this was a middle-class movement, set on foot by those who had bought houses with the burden of Church-rates upon them, and who now wanted to rob the churches, in the first instance by depriving them of that which was their right, and to cheat the poor in the second instance, by parcelling out the pews so as to prevent them entering. These buildings stood upon precisely the same ground as the civil list and the Queen's palaces, and if they refused to support the one, why not object to maintain the other?

Mr. E. BALL thought that the present was a fitting opportunity for bringing on this question, and replied to the objection of the hon. and learned member for Cambridge, that if the bill passed, there would be no means of repairing country churches, by asking how it was that the Dissenters managed to build chapels in small country villages and to support ministers there? He did not see, however, how that point could be affected by the passing or non-passing of the proposed bill, because at present the law did not make it compulsory, but only permissive, to levy a Church-

rate. He denied the assertion of the hon. member for West Surrey, that the Dissenters aimed at the destruction of the Church, and instanced cases in which they had come forward with subscriptions for repairing and upholding churches. It was only the principle of compulsion to which they objected. If the hon. member had a real and affectionate attachment to the Church, why did he not take steps to remedy practices which were offensive, and which drove out from her many who would willingly remain in her bosom if they could? The hon. member never endeavoured to do that, but satisfied himself with accusations against those who wished to pass this measure. He believed that the Dissenters were now very nearly, if not quite, the majority in this country. They were training 3,000,000 children, not in the Catechism but the New Testament. Those children would constitute the rising generation, and he warned the House, if they wished to secure the Church establishment, that it must be effected by a spirit not of hostility but of conciliation. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MUNTZ wished to know what was the use of retaining a law that was practically inoperative? In the town which he had the honour of representing, there had not been a rate for twenty years; and, although he himself had subscribed as much for church repairs as he should have been called on to pay had there been one, that was no reason why he should advocate that persons dissenting from the Church of England should be called upon to contribute. It was disgraceful to the Church of England to ask a Dissenter to pay Church-rates. (Hear, hear.) Why, one man might as well ask another to pay for his washing and lodging! (A laugh.) The Church was quite able to support itself, and he believed that every real Churchman was individually opposed to levying rates upon Dissenters. But it was a curious circumstance, that a body of persons would frequently do that which the persons forming it would individually be ashamed to do.

Mr. PACKE thought that the House ought to receive some explanation as to the course which the Government intended to pursue.

Colonel SIBTHORP cared not what course the Government intended to pursue, but, acting on his own judgment, he should oppose the bill. He had heard with great satisfaction the speech of the hon. member for West Surrey. (Loud cries of "Hear," and long-continued laughter.) He himself was actuated by no hostile spirit to Dissenters; on the contrary, he respected them, and was honoured with the support of many of them, but he would not shrink from the duty of supporting the Established Church. He always took a straightforward course, whether right or wrong—(hear hear)—and he felt bound to oppose a motion which would undermine the Church, and which was supported by many hon. members solely that they might secure their seats. (A laugh.) It appeared to him to be the fashion of the day to subvert everything, and the result was that the country was on the verge of danger, if not of ruin. Everything in its turn was attacked—the Church, the Law, the Navy, and the Military Department. He had often said, Let well alone; and he believed most firmly that Radicalism and the Reform Bill would prove to be the principal causes of the ruin of the country. (Laughter.) He could only say, that his main ambition was to sacrifice his life and fortune, if it should be necessary, in his country's service.

Mr. FLOVER did not feel himself bound by any arguments which had been raised respecting the interests of large towns. For many years past, the interests of large towns had been too exclusively considered by the House, and it was now time to consider the interests of county constituencies. If in the country Church-rates were abolished, great difficulties would be experienced in maintaining the fabrics; and, therefore, if the Legislature unwisely determined to adopt the proposition of the hon. baronet the member for the Tower Hamlets, they would inflict a serious injury on the country, by restricting the benefits of the Church and depriving the poor of that to which they had hitherto looked with firmness and success for consolation.

Mr. MOWBRAY was of opinion that if, as was asserted, the principle of the present measure was the same as that of the bill refused last session, the existing law was entitled to the same support it then received. The noble lord the member for London on that occasion took the high ground that Church-rates stood on the same footing as the hereditary institutions of the country, and the upholders of the system might, therefore, look with some confidence to the support of a Government which, although changed, still retained many of the individual members composing Lord Aberdeen's Administration. He denied there was either a very strong, or very general feeling against Church-rates. He admitted, however, that with regard to Dissenters it was in an unsatisfactory position; and, being inclined to consent to some compromise on the subject, he had looked anxiously for a proposition of that nature from Her Majesty's Government.

Lord PALMERSTON spoke as follows:—

The question brought under the consideration of the House is undoubtedly one beset with great difficulties of both kinds. It is exceedingly difficult to maintain the law, and it is exceedingly difficult to alter it in a satisfactory mode, and those difficulties have been long felt. In the first place, the contest about Church-rates keeps up animosities and religious differences between sects in a way very prejudicial, I think, to the general interests of the country, and prejudicial, I should say, to the interests of religion itself. (Hear, hear.) It must be admitted upon all hands, that if an arrangement could be made which would provide adequately for the repair of churches and chapels without involving questions of religious controversy, it would be a great blessing to the country at large. (Hear.) There has been for a long time a difficulty with regard to the maintenance of the

existing law, and I think that the decision which took place not long ago in regard to that law has increased that difficulty. When it is stated by honourable gentlemen opposite that the maintenance of the fabric of the church is a part of the law of the land, they appear to forget that, by recent decisions, there is no power of enforcing that law. If the law were that a compulsory power existed requiring every parish to levy a rate, then I agree that that would be the best mode of providing for the fabric of the church, and those who wished to maintain Church-rates would act consistently in supporting that law. But when the law says that the fabric of the church must be maintained by rates which are to be raised in parishes by a vote of a majority of the parishioners, then it becomes no longer the law that the church must be maintained by rates, because it depends entirely upon the will of the parishioners whether Church-rates shall be levied or not. I was sorry to hear a comparison made between the position of large towns and country parishes. That is a question which ought not to be mixed up in an argument of this kind. Though, if you come to consider what are the localities in which the largest repairs of churches are the most needed, and the largest amount of money is required, you will find that they are those very towns where the majority of the inhabitants are against raising that money by Church-rates. I think, therefore, that all must feel that some change in the law is very desirable in the interest of the Church itself. (Cheers.) How is that alteration to be made? That, undoubtedly, is a very serious question, and one on which I beg to refrain from pronouncing any decided opinion upon the present occasion. But it is said that the present bill is almost identical with that which the House rejected last year. I don't think that that assertion is correct. My honourable friend has shadowed out and explained shortly and clearly those modifications of his plan which renders it very different from the simple proposition for a total abolition of the tax, which he made last session. Therefore, regarding this as a subject which is well deserving of consideration, and reserving to Her Majesty's Government full freedom to deal with the measure when it shall be introduced according to their judgment of its merits, I shall certainly not oppose the introduction of the bill. (Cheers.)

Mr. HENLEY said, he could not agree to a proposal to sweep away Church-rates without any substitute being provided; but, without entering into any argument, he thought the best protest he could make against any proposition of that kind, was to vote against the introduction of the bill.

Mr. SPOONER observed that the main reason given by the noble lord for entertaining the project of a total abolition of Church-rates, was the alteration of the law in regard to the collection of those rates. That alteration took place in August, 1853; and yet in the year 1854 he found the noble lord the member for the city of London in a vote declaring that it would be dangerous to society to effect a total abolition of Church-rates. Without entering into the merits of the question, he should take the same course as that of his right hon. friend, and vote against the introduction of the bill.

Mr. LUSHINGTON expressed his anxiety to see the question settled on fair grounds.

The House divided, and the numbers were—

Ayes	155
Noes	76
Majority	79

The announcement was received with cheers.

SECULAR EDUCATION.

Mr. GIBSON said that, having been chairman of a Committee of Inquiry into the subject of education, which sat the whole of one session and part of another, he thought it his duty to submit a plan to the House such as, in his view, appeared consistent with the evidence taken before that committee. If the committee had reported in favour of any particular scheme, he would not have presumed to do so; but, as they made no report, he thought it right to ask the House to see a plan which was based upon the information there obtained. He did not propose to introduce the measure in any antagonistic spirit to the right hon. baronet the member for Droitwich. He felt that their objects were at least the same. He believed that in material points, perhaps the most material, they were agreed. He therefore moved, without further preface, for leave to bring in a bill to establish free schools in England and Wales. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MILES could see no objection whatever to the introduction of this bill. In common fairness the House ought to hear the opinions and to discuss the plans of every sect of educationists before they decided upon adopting any particular scheme. (Hear, hear.)

Lord PALMERSTON said, of course it was very desirable that all the various schemes should be laid before the House, and there could be no objection to the introduction of this bill.

Mr. WALPOLE said, there were now five schemes before them—two for Scotland, and three for this country; namely, the Government measure, the bill of the right hon. baronet (Sir J. Pakington), and that now proposed by the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Gibson). Upon the principle of these bills it was premature as yet to pronounce an opinion; but he wished to ask the Government whether they intended to proceed with the bill of the noble lord the member for the city of London on the day at present fixed for its second reading.

Sir G. GREY said, it was not intended to proceed with the bill introduced by the noble lord the Secretary for the Colonies on the 16th of April, but it would be proceeded with after the return of his noble friend from Vienna.

Sir S. NORTHCOTE saw no provision either in the noble lord's bill or in that of the right hon. baronet, for establishing industrial schools.

Mr. HADFIELD would be glad of some other explanation of the intentions of Government. Several of the education bills would come on before the noble lord's return, and what would become of them? The bill of the right hon. member for Manchester was a

secular bill, and excluded religion; the bill of the right hon. member for Droitwich provided for teaching the religion of the majority. He (Mr. Hadfield) disapproved of the caricatures and hideous representations of the ignorance of the people, which had been so industriously depicted. It was not fair that no mention was made of 2,300,000 children being taught religiously in the Sunday-schools, by 263,000 teachers who possessed their confidence and affection.

Mr. HAYWOOD should be quite willing to accept of some such moderate plan as that in operation in Ireland, embracing the use of Scripture extracts in the schools.

Mr. HENLEY thought that, with so many schemes before the House, there was danger of something like a triangular duel on the subject of education. He could not say he agreed with the principle either of the noble lord's bill, or of the measure introduced by his right hon. friend (Sir J. Pakington), and he should certainly not be sorry to see the scheme of the right hon. member for Manchester, in competition with the other plans before the House. (Hear.)

Mr. GIBSON, in reference to the remarks of the hon. member for Dudley, observed that there was a provision in the bill for the establishment of industrial schools.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

ECCLÉSIASTICAL COURTS BILL.

The House of Lords on Friday went into committee on this bill.

Lord Brougham said, the bill consisted of two parts. With regard to the first, namely, that which abolished all proceedings in the ecclesiastical courts for slander and defamation, no doubt whatever was entertained. With respect to the second part, namely, imprisonment for nonpayment of costs, some difficulties existed. There was every disposition to enable the ecclesiastical courts, under proper restrictions, to liberate those who were detained for non-payment of costs, but there were difficulties which had not yet been met. It appeared to those who had considered this matter that the act which was framed in the year 1840 by his learned friend Dr. Lushington, giving certain powers, under restrictions, to the Judicial Committee and other Courts to release persons on whom sentence of imprisonment had already been passed for non-payment of costs, did not extend to costs in proceedings in the Ecclesiastical Courts for slander and defamation. It was, however, deemed desirable that the provisions of the act should be extended to those cases. He begged to remind their Lordships that when he presented a petition from Charlotte Jones, the person whose case had suggested the propriety of this measure, he had made no observations upon the conduct of the judge of the Ecclesiastical Court, because he felt that the ecclesiastical judge had no alternative but to pursue the course which had been taken. (Hear, hear.)

Lord St. LEONARDS said he should not object to give power to the judge of the Ecclesiastical Court to mitigate, in certain circumstances, the costs incurred by persons on whom sentence had been already passed. Undoubtedly the case of Charlotte Jones was one of those to which relief would be so given; but he believed there never was a case that was less entitled to their lordships' attention; because in that case, he was informed, six months were allowed to elapse before any proceedings were taken to recover the costs, and every reasonable proposition was then made to spare her; but some persons were determined to be made martyrs, and so great an outcry was raised about that particular case, which indeed, as well as others, he desired should have the benefit of this bill. He expressed a hope that he should receive an assurance from the Government of their intention this session to solve that most difficult question, the transfer of ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said, the question would be dealt with in several bills, one of which the Solicitor-General would ask the permission of the other House to introduce that evening. There would be also the Divorce Bill, and a bill for the improvement of the Church Discipline Act; but substantially the whole scheme would at one and the same time be before Parliament.

The Bishop of EXETER admitted that cases of defamation were exceedingly unfit to be dealt with in these courts.

The bill passed through committee.

THE OBJECTS OF THE WAR.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH seized the occasion of the adjournment for the recess to survey the position in which we stand, and what we have done in the war. At the beginning of the year we had a strong Government, and a fine army; now we have half an army, and have lost half the Government. A year ago we had a confiding Parliament and an enthusiastic people; we have now an inquiring House of Commons and a disappointed people. With our Turkish allies we have held Eupatoria; with our French allies we have for six months held twenty-five square miles of desert. It is impossible to conceal that the reputation of this country as a military power has been seriously impaired. A too confiding Ministry did not foresee the reality of war; did everything too late, and nothing well. An army should be equal in numbers to its work, well-equipped, well-commanded, and well-placed. Wellington had, at the end of the Peninsular war, an army that could go anywhere and do anything. Beginning a war without a reserve at home, with no militia, and a campaign without animals, we have an army that can go nowhere and do nothing. We want twenty-five sail of the line in the Baltic; and we are sending twenty, without any promise of "more than one" French sail of the line. On the other hand, we have obstructed

the negotiations of peace by introducing the point of military honour:—

Suppose we took Sebastopol, and then destroyed and left it; in a very few years afterwards it would be exactly the same as it is now. We could not by possibility dictate to a great Power like Russia terms such as Rome sought to impose on Carthage; she would never consent to submit to such a humiliation. Therefore, to take and destroy this fortress would only give you during the war an advantage of a temporary character—an advantage the measure of which you can easily estimate by the value of the ships that you are now employing to blockade it. Suppose, however, that you not only capture but try to keep it; you cannot maintain Sebastopol alone—you must go a great deal further. It would be impossible for you always to have 100,000 men in the Crimea to prevent Russia from occupying Sebastopol to the detriment of Turkey. But you would have to do even more than that, and must endeavour to raise the nations in the neighbourhood of the Crimea to form a barrier against Russia. It may seem absurd to say it, but, in point of fact, you must set about reconstructing the ancient kingdom of Mithridates—a task utterly impracticable, and one that you must reject as absolutely impossible. Now, I will assume that such a treaty can be framed under the guarantee of all the great Powers of Europe as may effectually protect the Danubian Principalities from a reoccupation by Russia. There still remains the danger to Turkey from Sebastopol—a danger which no diminution in the number of ships composing the Russian fleet would prevent. There is the danger of Russia embarking from 40,000 to 50,000 men, not only in her men of war, but in her merchant navy collected from Odessa and her other ports of the Black Sea, which, under the convoy of her ships of war, might move down upon Bourgas, or the mouth of the Bosphorus, and imperil, especially at the commencement of a war, the very existence of Turkey. That is the danger which is to be apprehended to the Ottoman empire; and though you may diminish the Russian fleet, yet while you leave Odessa and her commercial marine unmolested you do not guard against such a contingency. There is only one mode of guaranteeing Turkey against it. You cannot neutralise to Russia the value of her own possessions, but you have your possessions, or rather those of your ally, in the Bosphorus and at Constantinople, and your sole security is in creating another Sebastopol in the Bosphorus, and in giving Turkey an army and strong fortifications, by the aid of which she may fight her own battle and defend herself until Europe can come to her rescue. (Hear, hear.)

Earl GRANVILLE declined to follow Lord Ellenborough through the topics of his untimely speech; but he denied that the Baltic fleet is insufficient for its service.

The advanced squadron, formed as it is entirely of steamers to the number of ten, has already sailed, and looking to the force which is now ready to sail under Admiral Dundas—seven ships of the line, eight frigates, eight gunboats, all either paddle steamers or screws—and looking, moreover, to the number of vessels which can be added in a very short time indeed—I believe that not less than 104 pendants would be ready for sea at a moment's warning.—I do maintain that, be the armament of Russia what it may—be it thirty ships of the line, even, with the addition of some screws—it would be entirely undervaluing our own forces to say that they are insufficient for the campaign.

He stated that the account of naval assistance in the Baltic to be rendered by the French Government would differ materially from Lord Ellenborough's estimate. If the Government has lost the assistance of eminent men, it has not lost courage; and the divisions in the House of Commons, and the election at Liverpool, show that it has not lost the support of the people.

Replying to another point raised by Lord Ellenborough, the Duke of ARGYLL said that the security of Turkey and the free navigation of the Danube make the war as much an Austrian as a French and English question.

The motion was then agreed to, and their Lordships adjourned till the 16th April.

THE COLONIAL OFFICE—THE WAR, ETC.

On the motion for adjournment of the Commons, on Friday, there was a running fire of questions. Sir JOHN PAKINGTON renewed his complaint respecting the state of the Colonial Office, and noticed a rumoured irregular practice of the Prime Minister in signing despatches and acting as Colonial Secretary. Sir John gave notice, that unless Lord John Russell had returned immediately after the recess, he should submit a motion on the subject.

Sir DE LACY EVANS, in the course of some remarks upon the state of the operations in the Crimea, and upon the necessity of reinforcing our army there, observed that, according to his notions of war, naval and military, the concentration of attack, with all our force, upon one great point or fortification, instead of attacks upon various points, was the principle which should be adopted.

Sir GEORGE GARY replied first to Sir De Lacy Evans, by stating that Government has not neglected to provide reinforcements. The troops have not been sent to the seat of war in small detachments, as before, but larger forces will reach the Crimea simultaneously. With regard to the Colonial Office, no specific allegations had been made, therefore no specific reply could be given. There has been no irregularity; and the Prime Minister has not signed any despatches—Sir George Grey has signed them, as Secretary of State. The present arrangement, by which Lord Palmerston takes part of the duty, will not long continue; for Sir George "hoped that the absence of the Secretary for the Colonies will be of short duration."

Sir JOSEPH PAXTON complained of the very defective construction and ventilation of the huts erected at Aldershot, and their great expense. He suggested tents for a portion of the troops. Mr. MONSELL, unaware of the question, could give no specific reply. As to tents, it will be necessary to keep the troops at Aldershot, not only during the summer but the winter months; therefore they must be lodged in huts.

Other topics were introduced by Mr. John

M'Gregor, Sir J. Shelley, Mr. Frewen, and Colonel Boldero. The motion was then agreed to.

TESTAMENTARY JURISDICTION.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL moved for leave to bring in a bill to abolish the jurisdiction of all the ecclesiastical and peculiar courts in England and Wales respecting wills and administrations, to establish a distinct court of probate and administration, and otherwise amend the law in relation to matters testamentary. He enumerated some of the evils, and remedies suggested by commissions and parliamentary committees. The result of all the authorities was, that there should be one single tribunal, and that a civil one, in the metropolis, for the exercise of the testamentary jurisdiction, ordinary and contentious. Warned by the objections which had been raised against the bill of last year, he had endeavoured to meet and obviate the misapprehensions which had deceived many into the belief that the object of that bill was to throw the whole testamentary jurisdiction into the mass of general business in the Court of Chancery. He proposed to place the whole jurisdiction in relation to wills under a metropolitan civil court, to form a distinct court in the Court of Chancery, to be called Her Majesty's Testamentary Court, which should exercise jurisdiction in all matters relating to wills and the granting of administrations, acting as a Court of Construction as well as of administration. Attached to this court would be a Testamentary-office, which would be opened to all Her Majesty's subjects to prove wills, without the necessity of employing a proctor or any agent; and there would be an officer who would be empowered to give information to parties coming to prove wills. For the convenience of persons in the country, solicitors, who were Commissioners of the Court of Chancery, would be armed with power to receive wills, administer oaths, and supply information.

He then explained the machinery provided in the bill, pointing out the advantages that would result from the change, especially in the matter of economy. Where there was a controversy the mode of litigation would be that adopted in the Court of Chancery. Caveats would be entered and warned in the Testamentary-office, in the same manner as at present in the Prerogative Court. Sir R. Bethell explained at considerable length, and with much exactness, the working of the new court and office. With respect to wills of real estate, there was at present this anomaly,—that whereas the probate of a will was conclusive as to personal estate, it did not establish its validity as to real estate. It was thought, that this anomaly should be put an end to, and he proposed that any person interested in real estate under a will should have the power of bringing forward that will in the court to have it finally and conclusively established; so that the effect would be competent to deal with all questions relating to the validity or invalidity of wills, both of real and personal estate. He then proceeded to explain his scheme for the compensation of parties for the loss of offices under the bill, observing that its effect would be to disarm opposition to the proposed reform. The proctors, as a compensation for the loss of their present monopoly, would have to secure to them for life an annuity equal to one-half of the income derived from their professional practice. The total amount of charge for all these compensations would be 164,100*l.* To meet this he proposed to add to the fee fund of the Testamentary Court, which would be 74,745*l.*, a charge of three per cent upon the stamp, in lieu of the proctors' fee, which would yield 83,915*l.*, making an aggregate of 158,661*l.*, nearly 15,000*l.* more than would be required. With respect to the advocates of Doctors' Commons, they would be admitted to act as barristers, and he had no doubt that they would, upon the whole, be great gainers by the exercise of their talents in a new arena. In conclusion, the Solicitor-General intimated that the Court of Admiralty was under consideration, and that a bill upon the subject of marriage and divorce was prepared, and would shortly be introduced into that or the other House of Parliament. The subject of church discipline, he was understood to say, would likewise be considered.

Mr. NAPIER, without opposing the introduction of the bill, contended that it would be wiser and better, instead of a testamentary bill, to carry out a substantial reform in every part of the Ecclesiastical Courts.

Mr. MALINS said, although the evils of our testamentary jurisdiction had been, he thought, greatly exaggerated, all agreed that it should be vested in one Court, but he had heard no satisfactory reason why that court should form any part of the Court of Chancery. The only reason assigned by the Solicitor-General was that it sometimes happened that while a will was contested it was necessary to go to the Court of Chancery to protect the property in the interval. But these cases were so rare that there had not been one during the last two years. He saw no reason why the present system and establishment, which performed its duties admirably, should be abolished at so large a cost to the country.

Mr. KROGH replied to Mr. Napier and Mr. Malins.

Mr. R. PHILLIMORE defended the profession in the London Ecclesiastical Courts. In all the reports and evidence the testimony was unvarying to the assiduity with which the functions connected with those Courts were discharged. He should vote, he said, for the first reading of the bill upon the principle that it was high time that the House should take away the civil jurisdiction from the Spiritual Courts.

Sir J. PAKINGTON regretted that the Government had dealt with only one branch of this important subject, and hoped they would consider whether it was not possible still to deal with it as a whole.

Mr. HADFIELD spoke in favour of the bill, which, he said, would give general satisfaction.

Mr. BOWYER was of opinion that a separate exclusive court for testamentary jurisdiction was unnecessary,

and that wills should be tried like deeds and other instruments *inter vivos*.

After a few words from the LORD-ADVOCATE and the SOLICITOR-GENERAL, leave was given to bring in the bill.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Lord PALMERSTON has announced that Government have no present intention of introducing any bill for the improvement of the Metropolitan Buildings Act.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER announced, on Friday, that he should make the financial statement on Friday, the 20th April.

To a question from Mr. ADDERLEY, Sir G. GREY replied that arrangements were in progress, in conjunction with the inhabitants of South Australia, for the establishment of a regular postal service between that colony and the mother country.

Mr. W. BROWN has given notice, that early after Easter he should bring in a measure relative to decimal coinage.

In answer to Mr. FREWEN, Sir G. GREY stated, that no bill had been prepared upon the subject of county financial boards, and he could hold out no expectation that he should be able to bring in such a measure in the present session.

In answer to Mr. MACARTNEY, Mr. WILSON said, that it had been suggested to the Government that they should purchase the whole of the Bernal collection. Upon consideration, however, they had determined that 12,000*l.* should be given to the Department of Art and Science for the purchase of such portions of it as might be necessary to complete their collection: and that 4,000*l.* should be given to the British Museum for the same purpose. That was done upon authority vested in the Treasury and the Government by the House, who placed annually at their disposal 100,000*l.* for such objects.

In answer to Mr. HANKEY, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that a bill upon the subject of the Civil Superannuation Fund was in preparation, but he could not say whether it would be ready to be laid upon the table immediately after the recess.

Mr. PELLATT, on Friday, moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relative to the registration of places of religious worship. He deferred the explanation of the bill to its second reading. Mr. J. HAYWOOD said he did not wish to oppose the bill, but he could not understand its object; for it did not appear to him to be necessary to register those places of worship. Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

New writs were, on Friday, ordered for Kilmarnock, in the room of the Hon. E. P. Bouverie, who has accepted office as Vice-President of the Board of Trade; for Lewes, in the room of the Hon. H. B. W. Brand, who has accepted the office of a Lord of the Treasury; and for the county of Cork, in the place of Mr. E. B. Roche, who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

In briefly referring to the adjourned debate of the 23rd March respecting the defects of our system of criminal procedure, Lord BROUHAM, on Friday, expressed his belief that the right course to adopt would be to issue a Commission to inquire into the subject. Lord HATHERTON earnestly supported the recommendation. The LORD CHANCELLOR declined to give any pledge; "although it seemed to him the most practicable mode of obtaining the results required.

On the motion of the LORD CHANCELLOR, two important bills were read a first time: one to extend the Charitable Trusts Act and to extend the jurisdiction of the Commissioners; a second to make further provision for the good government of the University of Cambridge and the College therein, founded mainly upon the Oxford University Bill of last session.

In answer to Mr. E. G. Dundas, on Friday, Mr. PEEL stated that Government had given instructions that all unnecessary form of check and counter-check for obtaining supplies in the Crimea, which were indispensable for the sick, should be discontinued.

Mr. SROONER has given notice that on the 1st May he should move for a committee to inquire into the acts respecting the College of Maynooth, with a view to the removal of the grant out of the Consolidated Fund.

Mr. ADDERLEY has postponed his motion on reformatory schools, and given notice that immediately after the recess he should move to introduce a bill for the amendment of the Youthful Offenders Act of last session, so as to provide more efficiently for the recovery of the cost of the maintenance of children from their parents.

Mr. DUNLOP asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether—considering that, by the Clergy Reserves Act, recently passed by the Legislature of Canada, it is declared in the preamble to certain of its enactments that "it is desirable to remove all semblance of connexion between Church and State"—it is the intention of the Government to cease to maintain that connexion in Canada, by no longer advising Her Majesty to nominate to vacant bishoprics in that colony? Sir G. GREY replied that no vacancy in any bishopric in Canada had occurred since the Act passed. He was not aware that any decision of the Government had been come to as to any alteration in the practice now pursued.

Mr. WILSON, in reply to Mr. Cowan, was not prepared to say whether the Government intended to introduce a measure on the subject of life assurance associations this session. At present there was great difficulty in dealing with it; but many of the evils which had been complained of had been remedied by the Parliamentary inquiry itself. At all events, they must wait for the measure which the Government had promised with regard to limited liability, for it was obvious that the subject could not be considered apart from that.

Amongst other notices is a motion by Captain Boldero for a committee to inquire into the medical department of the army and navy, one by Mr. H. Berkeley for the

adoption of the ballot, Mr. Frewin's resolution for the repeal of the hop duty, and a motion by Mr. Cowan to be moved in committee on the Newspaper Stamp Bill to remove any restriction on the dimensions of newspapers and periodicals, and to allow all newspapers and periodicals under two ounces to go through the post for a halfpenny.

The committee on the Newspaper Stamp Bill is fixed for Monday, April 23.

The House of Commons was counted out soon after midnight on Friday, on the motion of Mr. Vance, during a discussion on the Bills of Exchange Bill, and stands adjourned to Monday, April 16.

THE SEBASTOPOL INQUIRY.

On Wednesday, at twelve, the committee resumed the inquiry—Mr. Roebuck in the chair. Dr. Menzies was again called: he explained that when he said on the previous day "he did not know what his duties were," he meant that after the arrival of Dr. Cumming, who was his senior officer, his (witness's) position was an anomalous one. He well knew what his duties were before the arrival of Dr. Cumming. He held that Dr. Cumming was responsible, that he was acting under his orders; but he admitted that, strictly speaking, he ought not to have obeyed Dr. Cumming. The consequence was, that one day Dr. Cumming gave orders without consulting Dr. Menzies, and the next day Dr. Menzies gave orders; "so that at last the medical officers came to ask who was the principal medical officer." Dr. Menzies said it was the duty of the purveyor to see that washing was supplied, and that there was a supply of bed-pans; but he admitted that he saw the want of both, but did not ascertain whether they were supplied. First he said he had made a requisition for bed-pans to Lord Stratford; but when precessed it turned out that he had not himself made out any requisition of the kind, but had told the purveyor to do so. The purveyor is responsible for the supply of stores, the medical officer for medical comforts. New instructions to the purveyor arrived at Scutari, ordering the purveyor to obey such orders as the Inspector of Hospitals or the principal medical officer might give. They were entitled, "Rules for the East;" but Mr. Wreford did not consider them applicable to him, and refused to obey the orders. Dr. Cumming did not report that Mr. Wreford continued to act as before. No operating theatre was provided, and the operations were performed within view of some of the wounded. Certainly in a military hospital there should be operating tables and a theatre; but some allowance in this case should be made for the confusion that existed and the impossibility of attending to everything. He was closely examined as to the accuracy of the returns of deaths on board the sick transports. It appeared that it was the custom to report only the deaths that occurred between the time of departure from Balaklava to the date of the arrival of the ship at Scutari. The medical officer made his report as soon as he arrived; and thus the deaths that took place after the arrival of the ship but before the debarkation of the sick are not included in the return of deaths during the passage. They are reported in some other return.

The Chairman—When you found all the stores piled up in the higgledy-piggledy way described, did you take any steps to make the purveyor do his duty?

Witness—The purveyor knew his duty, and he (witness) did his best to make him fulfil it.

Mr. Layard—Did you reprimand, censure, or in any way punish him, or any individual who neglected to do his duty connected with the hospital?

Witness—I sent one officer away.

Mr. Layard—What was he?

Witness—A copying clerk. (Laughter.)

Dr. Dumbreck, a deputy inspector-general of hospitals at Constantinople, said, that at first, when the regiments began to arrive at Scutari, no purveyor's stores had preceded them there, and what sick there were, had food and comforts from the Commissariat. The comforts were not such as purveyor would have supplied. After the battle of the Alma, at which he was present, he saw no want of medicines or surgical appliances, as far as came under his observation. He left the camp before Sebastopol on the 13th November, up to which time there were no wants among the troops that were not supplied. Before he left the Crimea, some medicines, especially opium, were consumed so rapidly as to cause apprehensions of a scarcity. He sent to the apothecary at Scutari for a fresh supply of opium, and he got it. He believed he applied for 50lbs., and he got 30lbs. Of lint, bandages, and things of that kind, there was a superabundance. The army never suffered on that score. At Varna, there was not the slightest vestige of medical comforts. He was present at the Alma, at Balaklava, and at Inkermann, and he saw no want of medical comforts on any of those occasions. He did not think much individual suffering was caused by the ambulance waggons we used. After the battle of Inkermann, the bedding on board the sick transports failed. Many of those vessels, however, were supplied with medicines and comforts according to lists drawn up by himself, and with reference to the number of sick. He also ordered ten dozen of port wine to be placed on board each transport, but he was laughed at; and by the direction of Dr. Hull, his senior officer, the quantity was cut down to four and six dozen. Dr. Menzies was completely overworked. He was put in a position that no one man could ever have coped with. "Do you think there is a fear of incurring responsibility on the part of medical men in our general hospitals?"—Decidedly: they are liable to be referred to and questioned if they have ordered anything for a patient that appears extravagant." "Do you think having to keep so many accounts, and fill up so many forms, interferes with the medical duties of the surgeons?"—Most distinctly; that is decidedly the evil of our whole medical system; we have far too much writing to do."

On Thursday, Dr. Forrest, who went out to the East between 300 and 400 sick and wounded, who being

originally as Staff-Surgeon to the Third Division, but who was subsequently appointed, *pro tem.*, but for ten days only, Deputy Inspector at Scutari, was the first witness examined. He said he could confirm what had been stated by Dr. Menzies, that the forms which prevailed interfered with the performance of the duties of the Hospital Inspector. His general statements agreed with those of previous witnesses.

Captain Bamford, of the 63rd Regiment, who was wounded by a shell at Inkermann, believed that the evidence as to the withholding of the knapsacks was incorrect. The French mode of conveying their sick on mules was much preferable to ours. The state of the invalids on board the Trent was dreadful. There was no convenience or provision of any kind. Dr. Forbes was very attentive to him whilst he was in hospital. There was no supply of linen. When he was ill before Sebastopol the doctor told him he had no medicine, and that he must take some spirits if he could get any. (Laughter.)

Captain Muir, Commander of the Andes, transport, was examined: He had constantly been carrying troops after the battle of Alma; he took wounded to Scutari, four officers and thirteen men died on the passage. The official report which states that one officer and four men had died was false. On his first visit to Balaklava, the hospital was in a very unsatisfactory state. On subsequent occasions he found it in a much better condition. Other returns were handed to Captain Muir, which he declared were incorrect. Coaling in the Bosphorus was attended with great difficulty. The process was so slow that on one occasion his ship was eight days in taking in 420 tons of coal. He sometimes saw Admiral Boxer when he was in the Bosphorus; he was not a very nice man to speak to. (Laughter.) He (the admiral) had too much to do, and his temper was very irritable.

Captain Stewart stated that since the war broke out he had commanded, first, the Golden Fleece, and then the Mauritius, in both of which he had conveyed troops from this country and part of its dependencies to the East. He proceeded to speak to his having, when in the Mauritius, anchored outside Balaklava, in company with other vessels, from the 14th October to the 9th November, a few days before the memorable hurricane. A storm had been apprehended some days before the 14th November, when the gale took place. The ill-fated Prince came and anchored in the immediate vicinity of his ship, when lying off Balaklava. She lost two of her anchors the very day she anchored there; but after that mishap she would still have two large anchors and cables left. The Prince was the property of the Government at the time she was lost. Her captain had a very good reputation as a skilful seaman in the service. Witness proceeded to speak to his having carried about in his ship a quantity of regimental baggage from place to place for a period of three or four months, because he was unable to find any one to take it off his hands. Also, when in the Golden Fleece, he conveyed in his hold a number of empty beef and flour casks, along with other cargoes which he was taking backward and forward between Constantinople and Varna, in consequence of being obliged to return those casks into store when the ship came to England, or to pay a sum equivalent to their value. Those empty casks were a great incumbrance in the hold of the vessel, and they would have made good firewood at Balaklava at a time when it was much wanted there.

Captain Freeman, the commander of the Pyrenees, deposed to having, when at Eupatoria with his vessel, which had previously been engaged in the conveyance of troops to the East, seen immense quantities of wheat, flour, and vegetables in store there which it occurred to no one to send to Balaklava, where they would have been of great service. He appeared on one occasion off Balaklava, in the Pyrenees, laden with a cargo of provisions, including vegetables, but which he was unable to land, in consequence of being unable to get an order from the authorities for that purpose. The ship was shortly afterwards lost near the entrance to the Katscha, in the great storm of the 14th November, and the whole of her cargo of provisions.

Captain Darke was next called, and stated that on the 17th August last, he went out as supercargo to a ship called the Courier, 336 tons, which left this country for the East laden with all kinds of preserved meats, broths, vegetables, tea, brandy, sherry, beer, porter, whisky, and many other comforts. The vessel arrived off Balaklava about the 19th October, but she was not allowed to enter the harbour for some time. He offered the whole of his cargo for sale to the English authorities, at a reasonable price, at Malta, Constantinople, and Balaklava, and twice at the last place; but they having all declined to take it, he sold it, with the exception of the tea, to the French, who gave him the price he asked for it. He proceeded to describe the harbour of Kamiesch, in the occupation of the French, as seen by him on several visits he paid to it. It was in the greatest possible order; there were wharfs and jetties set apart for the landing of the sick and wounded, and for each kind of provisions; there was also a harbour master; indeed, all the operations of our Allies there were conducted in a systematic manner. He left Balaklava on the 13th December, and landing places were then being made, but he could not say the harbour was improved in other respects.

Captain Ellison, the commander of the Avon, 2,000 tons burthen, stated that he was lying outside the harbour of Balaklava on the night of the storm, in company with the Prince, the Melbourne, and many other ships, and that having lost both his anchors, he ran his ship into the harbour during the gale, in which he was completely successful. He adverted to the Avon, when in the harbour of Balaklava during three weeks having been converted into an hospital ship for be-

wholly without the assistance of orderlies, and but ill attended by medical men, fell into the most filthy and disgraceful condition—so much so, that Lord Raglan caused an inquiry to be instituted into the matter, which resulted in orderlies being immediately sent on board, and a sufficient number of medical men.

On Friday, Dr. Andrew Smith was recalled. Some returns were produced. With respect to one of them, purporting to be a true and faithful account of articles supplied, the Chairman said: "I see no mention here of 1,400 dozen of port wine supplied. I want you to find that in the list you have presented to the House of Commons." Dr. Smith, after inspecting the document several minutes, said it would be better to examine the storekeeper on these details. He did not understand them, and, although his name was to them, he left the duty of making the returns to the storekeeper. In some sense he was responsible. He did not recollect the circumstance. Mr. Bellie was the responsible person in his office. The room was then cleared for half-an-hour. Dr. Smith said the public were very likely to make imputations on his conduct, and he humbly and earnestly hoped the committee would probe the matter, that he might be relieved from censure. There had been nothing wrong on his part, and he had nothing whatever to conceal. The Chairman assured Dr. Smith that no imputation upon him was intended. The committee were simply doing their duty in probing the subject to the bottom.

Mr. Maxwell, one of the commissioners sent out by Government to the hospitals, was next examined. Before he left, the Duke of Newcastle informed him that the Government desired to have a most searching inquiry, so that they might obtain the whole truth, and thereby learn from the experience of the past to avoid error for the future. The commissioners could obtain no returns from the medical officers. No entry had been made in the apothecary's books from September 24th to September 28th. Up to the time he (Mr. Maxwell) left the hospital, he did not believe that the apothecary had any idea of what he had in store. The commissioners had only power to report, and not to remove. Mr. Maxwell also stated, that it was impossible to get returns from the purveyor. He gave evidence as to the badness of the orderly system. The system of distributing the food in the hospital was radically defective, the meat being frequently served up quite raw. When he first went to Scutari he found sick men in the hospital frequently without linen, and beds were also to be seen without linen. The washing at the general hospital was done by a corps of eight or ten Armenians. There was no fault to find with the washing there, so far as quantity was concerned; but when a man sent his shirt to be washed he was never certain he would get it back again; and when that was the case, such of the sick as had shirts, however dirty, were not willing to part with them. Shortly after Miss Nightingale arrived she established, partly from her own funds, a washing establishment, which she had fitted up with coppers, and there about 500 shirts were washed in a week, and about 150 other necessary articles. [Witness here gave an account of the medical comforts furnished for the hospitals daily by Miss Nightingale, partly from her own private resources and partly from the public stores there, sometimes in one day as many as thirteen gallons of chicken broth and forty gallons of arrowroot.] He added that some of the comforts supplied by her were provided, not because they were not in store at the purveyor's, but because those at the purveyor's were not of good quality. As to the port wine that had been complained of, he had tasted it after, and found it good. No doubt there were varieties in the wine. Mr. Maxwell is to be further examined.

The committee adjourned until after the Easter recess.

VISIT OF THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH TO ENGLAND.

The *Moniteur* of Wednesday contained the following announcement of the long-expected visit of the Emperor Napoleon to this country. "Her Majesty Queen Victoria has invited the Emperor and the Empress to visit England. Their Majesties intend repairing to London about the middle of next month."

Preparations are being made at Windsor for the reception of the Emperor and Empress of the French, on Easter Tuesday, the 10th April. The apartments now under the process of decoration, and on which no less than forty gilders, besides upholsterers are employed, are the ball or grand reception rooms, the throne room, the Rubens room (where the theatrical entertainments have usually taken place), the King's council chamber, the King's closet, the Queen's closet, the Zuccarelli room, the Vandyck room, and, indeed, all the apartments on the North terrace. It is understood that the Emperor and Empress of the French will remain in England for about a fortnight, visiting London, Osborne, Woolwich, Portsmouth, Greenwich, and other places, but residing principally at Windsor Castle. The York and Lancaster Towers are being fitted up for that purpose, and the whole of the apartments in the Round Tower will be placed at the disposal of the attendants of the Emperor Napoleon.

Lord Alfred Page, Equerry to Her Majesty, has been appointed Lord in Waiting to the Emperor of the French during his visit to England; the Marchioness of Ely Lady in Waiting to the Empress.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

The Crystal Palace is decidedly "looking up." As the season advances, the number of visitors increases. For the six days ending March 30, they had risen to 7,865, an average of 1,300 a day. It appears also that the shares are improving in the money market. It is stated that the season tickets for the next year, commencing in May, are to be reduced to one guinea.

This would be a wise resolution on the part of the directors.

The experiment has been tried as to the acoustic properties of the pianoforte in this vast area. The instrument selected was one manufactured by Messrs. Collard, and being placed in the centre transept, Mr. J. L. Hutton soon convinced the bystanders that an effect could be produced full, round, and sonorous, and quite equal to the requirements of either accompaniment or solo performances, so that chamber music may now be added to the attractions of the locality.

On Saturday, Her Majesty, Prince Albert, and the Duke of Cambridge, honoured the palace with a visit in the morning, and remained for a couple of hours, when Sir Joseph Paxton had the honour of conducting the Prince over the grounds.

On the same day, a new and powerful organ, built by Messrs. Bishop and Co., was opened in one corner of one of the transept galleries. The experiment was satisfactory, though not considered conclusive. The instrument was surrounded by a numerous and fashionable audience. The music was heard all over the building, but best throughout the sweep of the gallery, in one corner of which it is placed. The band also gave what may be considered a farewell concert. It is to be broken up—a circumstance which, if unattended with any diminution of attraction, will involve a saving to the concern of some six or seven thousand a year.

Postscript.

SERIOUS RUSSIAN LOSS BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

PARIS, Wednesday Morning.

A despatch has been received from General Canrobert, dated March 29, giving an account of a sortie made by the Russians, on the night of the 22nd and morning of the 23rd. He states that the enemy were vigorously driven back, with a loss of no less than 2,000 killed or wounded. The loss of the Allies was 600.

The following is a prior despatch from General Canrobert.

Before Sebastopol, March 22.

We are advancing towards the Mamelon which covers the Malakoff Tower. The enemy has, at different times, attempted to destroy our works of approach, but without success.

Admiral Istomin, commander of the fleet of the place, has been killed.

The health of the troops is excellent.

In a despatch, published in last night's *Gazette*, dated March 20, Lord Raglan announces the accidental death of Surgeon Le Blanc, of the 9th Foot. He appears to have wandered into the French camp, and, not answering the challenge that was repeated three times, was shot dead by the French sentry whose post he had approached. He is described as a gentleman of the most temperate habits. Lord Raglan incloses a letter from General Canrobert, describing the event, and expressing great regret at its occurrence.

A letter from Vienna of the 29th ult. states that M. de Bourqueney had on the previous day a private interview with Count Buol, and had communicated to him a report from General Canrobert, which had been sent from Paris. The General announces that every thing is ready for the bombardment, and that the fire would most probably be opened from all the batteries on the 25th.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCE.

VIENNA, Tuesday, April 3.—In the sitting of the Conference, yesterday, it was resolved to postpone the discussion on the third and fourth points till the arrival of M. Drouyn de Lhuys. The third point will then be first discussed.

VIENNA, Tuesday Evening.—A kind of panic prevails here, as it is believed the Conferences have been broken off. They are only suspended until Monday or Tuesday next, when the Russian Ministers will have received their fresh instructions.

Letters from Galatz of the 15th March, state it to have been officially announced by the Austrian Consul that the Russians will permit the free navigation of the Danube only to Austrian vessels laden with bread-stuffs purchased by Austrian subjects prior to the prohibition of export, and provided that such cargoes be destined for Austrian ports in the Adriatic. No supplies of grain, therefore, are to be expected from that quarter until peace shall have been concluded, or until the Russian bank of the river shall have been cleared by a Turkish or Austrian army.

Letters from Toulon of the 29th describe the movements there as indicative of anything but peace. In the roads there are not less than seven ships of the line, 10 frigates, six corvettes, and a considerable number of smaller vessels. It is calculated that the French navy alone is capable of transporting 20,000 men.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

PORTSMOUTH, April 3.

The Baltic fleet did not sail from Spithead yesterday, the weather being exceedingly thick, with a contrary wind blowing almost a gale. The order to unmoor the ships preparatory to sailing was given in the morning; but as the weather got worse, and the wind rose higher, another signal, annulling the first, was hoisted from the flag-ship, the Duke of Wellington. The fleet will now sail the first opportunity, probably early this morning, as the wind, though still blowing very hard, appeared to be getting round to a favourable point. The non-sailing of the fleet has been the source of great disappointment to numbers of persons. To witness its departure many thousands came down by rail, both yesterday and for several days back, the port

being crowded with visitors. Little pleasure was to be enjoyed, however, for the rain fell almost incessantly all day long. Nevertheless, the steamboats announced to sail through the fleet kept their engagements, and many hundred persons ventured out to Spithead.

BOYLE v. WISEMAN.

At the Kingston Assizes yesterday, this case came on for hearing. Cardinal Wiseman, who had been subpoenaed as a witness, sat upon the bench during the greater part of the trial. This cause, it will be remembered, was tried at Guildford at the last summer assizes, and on that occasion the plaintiff was non-suited. An application was afterwards made for a new trial, on the ground that the Chief Baron, who tried the cause, had improperly refused to admit secondary evidence of the contents of a letter written by the defendant, in which he admitted the authorship of the alleged libel, and that he had also ruled that the cardinal could not be called as a witness for the plaintiff, as his evidence would tend to criminate himself; and upon these grounds a new trial was directed. Mr. James opened the case for the plaintiff in a brief and eloquent speech. The libel upon the defendant who was a Catholic priest appeared in the *Paris Univers* in May 1854. The article bore the signature of the defendant, and was a reply to one in the *Ami de la Religion*. It charged the plaintiff with having been expelled from a society of Jesuits, of which he was a member, and also represented that he had, while holding the office of curate to the Church at Islington, to which he had been appointed by Dr. Griffiths, shown such a want of zeal in the discharge of his duty, that the church was deserted; and it likewise charged him with having kept possession of the residence of the chapel after he had been denounced by the bishop, and in defiance of him; and also represented that he had, by threats and intimidation, induced some of his parishioners to sign a remonstrance to the bishop upon the subject of his dismissal, and a request that he might be allowed to remain in his office. Several witnesses were examined, and Mr. Serjeant Shee addressed the jury for the defendant. Mr. Baron Platt, in summing up said that he could not help expressing his regret that a gentleman like Cardinal Wiseman, a scholar, and a man of high attainments, should appear classed in the same category with a malicious libeller. That the charge made against the plaintiff amounted in law to a libel there could be no doubt, and a libel coming from the pen of such a man as Cardinal Wiseman was, of course, calculated to have much more effect than if it was written by an ordinary person. The defendant had not pleaded a justification, and by that course he admitted that the charges he had made were false. The jury, after deliberating for about twenty minutes, returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages 1,000.

THE CHURCH-RATE STRUGGLE.

Nearly the whole of the Dissenting congregations in Southampton and its neighbourhood have sent petitions to the House of Commons in favour of Sir William Clay's motion for the abolition of Church-rates; and a monster petition to both Houses of Parliament is now in course of signature in Southampton, praying for the total abolition of Church-rates. The Southampton Dissenters (a numerous and powerful body) are opposed to any substitute for Church-rates except the appropriation of Church property, or the voluntary contributions of members of the Church of England for that purpose.

About sixty cases of Assyrian antiquities, from the excavations of Mr. Layard, Mr. Rassam, and Mr. Loftus have arrived at the British Museum.

We regret to hear that Mr. Blackett, M.P., is seriously ill at Paris. Galignani states that he is paralysed on one side.

The births of 2,099 children and the deaths of 1,604 persons were placed in the London registers in the week that ended last Saturday, which was the last week of the quarter. At this period the registration usually shows an increase, arising from cases which occurred in previous weeks, but were not registered at the time of their occurrence. In the 13th week of the years 1845-54 the average number of deaths was 1,243, which, with a correction for increase of population, becomes 1,367. It will therefore be near the truth to state that about 200 persons died last week above the usual number, in consequence apparently of the coldness of the season.

There has been a commercial panic in California. Letters from San Francisco, of the 26th February, state that the failure of Page and Bacon, of St. Louis, had caused one of the greatest monetary panics ever known; and so great was the run upon the banks and banking-houses, that the heaviest and most important were obliged to give way to the pressure, and close up their concerns. All business transactions were entirely suspended, and trade was represented as being completely dead. Fair promises were made, however, by the suspended bankers that all would soon be righted, and a number of the most wealthy merchants had proffered assistance to the distressed houses, in the hope of temporarily satisfying the panic-stricken community, and allaying the excitement.

CORN-EXCHANGE, MARK-LANE, Wednesday, April 4.

We have but little doing in our market to-day. Prices as on Monday.

Arrivals this week.—Wheat, English, 1,860 qrs; foreign, 1,850 qrs. Barley, English, 3,980 qrs; foreign, 2,200 qrs. Oats, English, 1,420 qrs; Irish, 850 qrs; foreign, 7,840 qrs. Flour, 1,220 qrs; Irish; foreign, 1,950 sacks.

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Covers for binding the *Nonconformist*, price 3s. each, and Portfolios for filing the current volume, price 4s. each, may be had at the Publishing-office, or through any bookseller or agent.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. K., Maidstone.—Advertisements for the *Nonconformist* should be sent to the Publisher, before Eight o'clock on Tuesday Evening.

I. V. BRADDY.—We see no objection to the signing of petitions for the abolition of Church-rates by females. Many of the fair sex are compelled to pay the impost, and are liable to all the consequences of refusal.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1855.

SUMMARY.

THE hopes of a pacific termination of the Vienna Conferences are, we regret to say, subsiding. On coming to discuss the third point, involving Russian preponderance in the Black Sea, Prince Gortschakoff said he had no instructions to accept the proposition of the Allies, and could consent to nothing which would infringe the sovereign rights of his Imperial master—though it is now generally understood that the terms offered by the Western Powers did not include the destruction of the fortifications of Sebastopol, but mainly the limitation of the naval force of Russia in the Euxine. The Conference is suspended until the 16th inst., by which time the Russian Envoys expect to have received fresh instructions. To the distinguished diplomatists at Vienna, is to be added M. Drouyn de l'Huys, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, who has departed for the Austrian capital, after a personal consultation with the heads of our own Government. Whether his object be to prevent Austria from falling away from the Western Alliance, or to give greater weight to the coming deliberations of the Conference, is uncertain. We can scarcely suppose so many distinguished statesmen would be assembled at Vienna with no definite object in view, and no expectation of realizing it. The Russian Government is almost unmatched in the diplomatic arena, and if the terms of the Allies are acceded to, it will be only after a hard-fought contest at the council board. That the unwillingness of the Czar to accept the Four Points is encouraged by the equivocal position of the Court of Vienna, may be surmised from the fact that the bulk of the Russian army on the frontier of Galicia is being withdrawn and marched to the Crimea, while its place is supplied by Asiatic troops, ill-adapted to cope with the disciplined soldiers of Austria.

A stronger reason for the stubbornness of the Emperor Alexander, is the present aspect of affairs in the Crimea. Not only the works of Sebastopol, but the Russian troops are becoming more efficient as the contest is prolonged. The *Times* impatiently demands that the allies shall do something, and not lose precious time in indefinite delays. But what can be done? The sanguinary conflicts for the rifle pits in front of the French line are but a foretaste of the carnage that would attend a general assault. General Canrobert reports a desperate sortie by the Russians on the evening of the 23rd, which was repulsed with a loss of not less than 2,000 killed and wounded on the part of the enemy, and 600 by the Allies. But we hear nothing of any practical result of this achievement—nothing that holds out any expectation that Sebastopol can be taken without further enormous reinforcements and a regular campaign in the field. It is true that our troops are improving in every respect, and that our position is growing stronger in its defensive aspect, but the long expected general bombardment is still postponed, and according to competent judges is not likely to prove successful—the Russians being our superiors in heavy artillery. Fresh reinforcements have entered the besieged fortress, strengthened the relieving army in rear of the Allies, and augmented Prince Radzivil's division before Eupatoria; a succession of new redoubts and earthworks to the right of the allied position will have to be taken, ere even the south of Sebastopol can be completely invested; and, most important of all, the Crimean summer sets in with the month of May, when the most disastrous consequences may be anticipated from the effects of the heat upon the few square miles of ground which have for six months been poisoned by the presence of a numerous host. There is the prospect of plague and pestilence, not only to the south, but to the north of Sebastopol. In Eupatoria, threatened with investment by a formidable Russian army, is huddled together a population of some 40,000 miserable, filthy, and destitute Tartars, besides the Turkish forces. The siege of that town would, we are told, rival the horrors of Magdeburg.

The waning fortune of the allies in the War with Russia, coupled, probably, with the increasing disgust of the English people at its management and continuance, seem to have induced the Conservative party openly to declare in favour of moderate terms for Russia. Their new policy found expression in the House of Lords on Friday, in the speech of Lord Ellenborough—the future Carnot of the party, who boldly spoke up for the "honour" of Russia, and expressed his willingness to remain satisfied with the creation of a rival Sebastopol in the Bosphorus. We observe also that the *Westminster Review* calls for moderate terms of peace. The desire of the British Government to hasten that consummation will, doubtless, be increased by the difficulty experienced in reinforcing our Crimean army, but especially in the utter disorganisation of the Militia force. But how would the withdrawal from Sebastopol affect our great ally? Can Louis Napoleon afford to lose his prestige, and would he under such circumstances—the result, to a considerable extent, of our incapacity and aristocratic misgovernment—hold to an intimate alliance with this country?

The Baltic fleet—prevented from sailing from Spithead yesterday in consequence of the adverse weather—has probably departed on its mission this day. It will be joined by only a small French squadron—the strength of our ally being appropriately reserved for the field. After the experience of last year, the public indulge no very sanguine expectations of the achievements of the armament under the command of Admiral R. S. Dundas. That he will thoroughly blockade the ports and fleet of Russia, there is no doubt. But, whether he will assail either of her great fortresses, is problematical, especially as we hear that she is repeating her Sebastopol experiment of sinking ships of war in the channel to Cronstadt.

The Sebastopol Committee has of course adjourned, with the House, until after Easter; and without making any very important additions to the evidence summarized in our last. The principal witnesses were Drs. Drumbeck and Forrest, and Mr. Maxwell, a member of the commission sent out in October. The doctors differed less in their account of the arrangements at Scutari than on the simple question of the sufficiency or insufficiency of medical appliances in the camp. Dr. Menzies, in his re-examination, begged to give "an unqualified contradiction" to Mr. Osborne's representation of the condition of the sick and the cause of mortality;—but Dr. Menzies is, unhappily for his credibility, the one man most heavily inculpated by Mr. Osborne's awful allegations; and the one man whom all parties unite in commanding to public prosecutor. Another significant and warning circumstance is,—that the later sittings of the Committee have been but scantly attended by its members; and that, since its rising, there is a visible conjuncture of attempts to discredit its usefulness. The informality of its proceedings is made the ground of objection to their trustworthiness,—as if facts collected without method were either individually useless or incapable of subsequent arrangement. The Committee must be allowed neither to suspend nor to attenuate its operations.

Is it for the emphatic refutation of the argument, that we could not investigate the condition of our army without exciting the anger of our ally, that the Emperor Louis Napoleon has announced his acceptance of an invitation from Queen Victoria? On the 16th instant we may look for him; but whether at London or Windsor does not at present appear. Of the manner of his reception there is too little doubt. The fussy eagerness of the Court of Aldermen to share the honour of his entertainment, is characteristic, no doubt, rather of the Corporation than of the citizens of London. But that the Englishman will keep his head in the presence of an Emperor—albeit so lately his aversion and dread—is too much to expect from our good-natured countrymen.

The election of a Liberal at Liverpool, by a majority of 1,456, is an event in these days of political torpor. It may be indeed only a sign of the torpor, but is not the less uninteresting for that. The Tories had undeniably, as they say, a bad candidate,—but their abstinence from exertion even for a bad candidate, is a cheerful novelty. Let not the Liberals be deluded into the choice of a worse man, and the exertion of less activity, on the next occasion of the kind.

Charlotte Jones, of Merthyr Tydfil, has attained a surely unexpected celebrity in having furnished—by her refusal to pay the costs of an action for slander, tried in the Ecclesiastical Courts—occasion for the introduction of the measure which Lord Brougham carried through Committee on Friday. Two other Bills with a similar object,—the Divorce Bill, and Church Discipline Bill,—were announced by the Lord Chancellor; also, a measure of Cambridge University Reform, based upon that last year applied to Oxford.

The Quarterly Revenue Returns (made up to the 31st of March, instead of to the 5th of April, as heretofore) furnish a triumph to Mr. Gladstone and a direction to his successor. There is a net increase on the quarter of 4,383,906.—of which 3,798,612l. arises from the property and income-tax. Except in the excise department, the returns very closely approximate to the calculations. The Customs yield nearly a quarter of a million more than in the same period of last year—The Board of Trade returns are less satisfactory, the export trade showing a considerable diminution in the two months ending March 5; among the causes of which, political incertitude should be set down with blockaded ports and the impoverishment of customers.

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

We have got through another stage of the present session. We have voted extravagant supplies for the conduct of the war. We have destroyed one Administration, and witnessed the sudden disruption of that which succeeded it. We have established a public inquiry into the mismanagement of our military affairs in the Crimea; and we have attempted, but hitherto in vain, to initiate something in the shape of army reform. Beyond these things, little has been done. True it is that, undismayed by the break-down of bureaucracy and officialism in every direction, we have welcomed the promise of the creation of another public department, and are meditating the putting under the guidance of Government the formation of the mind and character of the rising generation; and to this end we have now five bills, for educating the people at the public expense, upon the table of the House—three relating to England and Wales, which it is proposed to refer to a select committee—and two relating to Scotland. We have also done a little in the way of ecclesiastical reform, as will presently be seen; and we have read a second time a bill for abolishing the stamp duty on newspapers. Fatigued with our labours, we have adjourned for seventeen days' holiday—an arrangement which betokens how gladly the Government would dismiss us altogether, if they could.

Wednesday's sitting, never very numerously attended, is usually devoted to quiet, sober, practical business. Whether it arises from the presence of daylight—from the less excited state of the spirits prior to dinner time—or from the enforced limitation of the period of sitting, we know not, but the temper of the House is always more deliberative, the speeches are shorter and more to the point, and the decisions arrived at are less influenced by party considerations on that day than on any other. Last Wednesday was no exception to the rule. The main discussion was on the second reading of the Bills of Exchange Bill, which came down from the House of Lords. This measure proposes to render the law relating to bills of exchange more stringent, and to assimilate it to the law of Scotland. In short, the dishonour of a bill of exchange is to be followed by immediate judgment, and, of course, the holders of these documents will have a priority of claim over all other creditors. The change does not strike us as one called for by commercial necessity, and whilst in many cases it will inflict great hardship, in some it will operate most unjustly. Mr. Muntz opposed the bill in a speech of great pith and power, and was answered by Sir Erskine Perry and Mr. Glyn in calm but closely-reasoned speeches. Several other members took part in the debate. The truth is, that the measure, looked at from the capitalist's point of view, is naturally regarded with favour; seen from the honest and struggling trader's point of view, it is unnecessary, harsh, and unjust. The House affirmed the principle of the measure, and referred both that, and Mr. Keating's bill on the same subject, to a select committee. At the same sitting Mr. Frewen's Union of Benefices Bill—a very small modicum of ecclesiastical reform—supported by Mr. H. Phillimore and Mr. Spooner, was thrown out by a large majority; and Mr. Wrightson's bill for rendering unnecessary the vacating a parliamentary seat on acceptance of office in certain cases, although supported by Government, was rejected by a majority of four.

On Thursday evening the House was well attended on both sides; on that of the Conservatives, probably, to compliment Lord Lucan, whose grievances were to be exposed and discussed—on that of the Liberals, to secure the introduction of Sir W. Clay's Bill for the abolition of Church-rates. The public business of the evening commenced with the presentation of a considerable number of petitions in favour of that measure. Then the Convention with Sardinia Bill passed speedily through Committee. After which, Mr. Scott—in a lengthy speech addressed to a House wholly inattentive, and to a reporters' gallery seemingly at leisure—moved for copies of instructions to, and correspondence with, the Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, relative to the attack on Odessa. Sir C. Wood replied in the usual office.

strain, whereupon Admiral Dundas was highly belauded by several of his friends, and the motion was withdrawn. Mr. H. Berkeley afterwards moved an Address to the Crown, praying for a court-martial on Earl Lucan, for ordering the cavalry charge at Balaklava, on October 25th. The motion was made in a hostile sense, and was seconded by Lord Elcho, as the friend of Lord Lucan, in a speech of enormous length, but well put together, and delivered in an easy, gentlemanly manner. Mr. C. Villiers, as judge-advocate, replied on the part of Government, declining to order the court-martial. For five or ten minutes the hon. gentleman hesitated so much as to excite some fear that he would break down altogether—but, by dint of perseverance, he broke through the mist, and caught the thread of his intended argument. As he proceeded, he became clearer and warmer. His reasoning was unanswerable and admirably put—his manner courteous, but impressive withal. He entirely succeeded in his object, and convinced both friends and opponents, that the case was one which no court-martial could satisfactorily try. Neither Mr. Disraeli, nor Lord Palmerston, threw additional light on the subject, and the motion, after about four hours' discussion—Lord Lucan being himself present under the gallery—was withdrawn.

It was now close upon ten o'clock; but Sir W. Clay, when called upon in his turn by the Speaker, wisely persisted in his intention to ask leave for the introduction of his Bill on Church Rates. He spoke briefly, but with great judgment. He clearly explained wherein the present measure would be found to differ from the Bill of last year, declined entering into any discussion of its merits, and concluded by promising ample time for a consideration of the provisions of his measure before moving for the second reading. A short conversational debate ensued, in which Lord Stanley boldly and ably advocated the measure, and Lord Palmerston gave his assent to its introduction. We must not, however, omit notice of a rich scene, which highly amused a somewhat wearied House. Mr. Drummond rose and made one of his characteristic speeches, commencing with some wholesome truths, and concluding with some wholesale abuse. Now, it will be remembered that the *Times* of the day before had been unmercifully hard on Mr. Drummond for the offence he had given them on Monday night, when the Newspaper Stamp Duty was under discussion, and had suggested that he might be emulous of succeeding Colonel Sibthorpe, or of playing the part of jester to the Liberal side, as the gallant Colonel did to the Tories. Well, Mr. Drummond had no sooner ventilated his outrageous jokes and resumed his seat, than who should start up exactly opposite him but Colonel Sibthorpe. Of course there was a tittering cheer, but when the Colonel proceeded to say how happy he was to agree with the honourable member for West Surrey, the House literally shrieked with delight, and the crimson colour of poor Mr. Drummond's ears showed that however others might relish the fun, it was no joke for him. Sir W. Clay's motion was carried by a majority of 155 to 76.

Friday night was dismal—at least to outward appearance. In the first place, there was a miserably thin House. In the next place, on the motion for adjournment to the 16th of April, several subjects were "called attention to," which having no link of connexion one with another, produced a debate as irregular and disorderly as Balaklava harbour. This done, the Solicitor-General introduced his measure for abolishing the testamentary jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical courts, and for the establishment of one distinct court for probate and administration. In a very able speech, he shadowed forth a large measure of reform, upon the merits of which we shall comment hereafter. The learned gentleman occupied considerably more than two hours in addressing a House composed of thirty-three members, a nodding Speaker, and a Premier in profound slumber. After his measure had been introduced, other business was called on; but at half-past twelve o'clock patience was exhausted, the House was counted, and a quorum not being present, the House stood adjourned.

PARLIAMENTARY PROGRESS.

THE session that began on the 12th of December, and is now in its second recess, may seem, tried by the performances of former sessions, almost entirely fruitless; but, tried by its peculiar conditions and by popular expectation, will be found wanting neither in execution nor in promise. Exactly a dozen bills have received the Royal assent; and of these, two—the Militia Bill and the Foreigners' Enlistment Bill—were debated through the whole of the December sitting. That the former has been brought to no important result, and the latter proved a dead letter, tells nothing against the industry of Parliament, however reproachful to its judgment. The position of the Newspaper Stamp

and Church-rate Abolition Bills, however, is an assurance that the wisdom of the Commons, at least, is sometimes equal to their diligence; while the initiation of no less than five educational measures shows a disposition even to squander attention on impracticable or misplaced subjects. The estimates, again, have been voted with only too great alacrity. The work of the session has been that of retrospection and initiation.

Necessarily so—and beneficially. The position of affairs, in the dead of winter, was such as to render independent legislative action highly injurious, and almost impossible. In ignorance of our diplomatic relations and of our exact military condition,—with knowledge sufficient to excite gravest apprehensions, but not to justify even direct censure,—there was nothing that Parliament could do but throw upon Ministers all responsibility and withhold no plausible demands. The demand for the power of enlisting foreigners was not, in our opinion, even a plausible one; but we were content to counsel its concession under protest. But the lapse of six weeks made a great change in public sentiment and in Parliamentary duty. The Government had proved itself grossly incompetent to manage affairs not more momentously important than obviously simple. Our army was reported to be dying off by hundreds per day—and our hospitals to be crowded with sick, incurable because neglected. Austria was still but an "equivocal ally," and Prussia was playing into the hands of the enemy. Under these circumstances, equally humiliating and alarming, the instant assertion of Parliamentary supremacy, by the enforcement of Ministerial responsibility, was required by an indignant nation. Its representatives proved unusually sympathetic. The Government of Lord Aberdeen may be said to have gone down on the first night of the resumed session. The prolonged crisis that followed was but the prolonged echo of the crash. The hand that had destroyed one Cabinet was still outstretched to destroy. The ignominious failure of Lord John Russell—the final retirement of the Peelite triumvirate—the continued insecurity of the Palmerston Cabinet,—were all involved in the persistent resolution of the Commons to investigate the misconduct of the war. Another consequence was involved—the comparative suspension of legislative action. The enactment and amendment of laws is of necessity stopped by rapid changes of Government and the conversion of Parliament into a committee of military observation and inquiry. That two such liberal and important measures as those of Mr. Gladstone and Sir William Clay should have struggled through the hubbub into healthy life, is more than we expected, as much as the public desired. We will even venture to say,—let Parliament continue its vigilance over the war, or, better still, facilitate the conclusion of peace, and the nation will excuse it for yet another three months' suspension of its legislative functions. A country seldom suffers so much from the want of law as from the want of rule.

A NEW ENTERPRISE OF SCIENCE AND PHILANTHROPY.

SINCE even on the rocky table-land of the Crimea, while the storm of war yet beats, and in the very footprints of the charger, Spring, by the sweet voices of buds and flowers, asserts its returning right to reign, we may surely be permitted—sterile as of late have become our sympathies for all but military valour or suffering, and heavy as may be the pending claims upon our national resources,—to point attention to an enterprise that aims, literally and figuratively, to make the desert blossom and rejoice.

It is Central Africa that is the desert; but it is not a "solitary place." Between the fifth degree of west and twentieth of east longitude, and between the tenth and thirty-fourth degrees of north latitude—that is, in the irregular square of which the Lybian desert may be called one side, and Sahara the other, with Tripoli at top and Lake Tchad at bottom—there is an estimated population of sixty or seventy millions; equal to that of All the Russias. Of the travellers who have made this estimate, or enabled us to make it, not a few have testified by their failure to return, to the nature and condition of these dusky myriads. The names of Ledyard, Horneman, Park, Burkhardt, Laing, Clapperton, Davidson, Richardson, Barth, and Warrington, form a list of victims to the cause of African exploration sufficient to attest the intemperance of its climate and the barbarism of its inhabitants. But a much longer list would not suffice either to abate the interest or to deter from the hazard of an adventure so strongly commended alike by the love of knowledge and the love of man. Through "the smoke of this great sacrifice," we see only the necessity of better adapting our materials to their service.

It is now seriously proposed to resume the enterprise under the guidance of this idea. The "Society for Exploring and Evangelizing Africa" has among its promoters

men of no less practical knowledge than Mr. Roberts, the President of the Republic of Liberia; Sir David Brewster; Mr. Layard; Sir Gardner Wilkinson, F.R.S.; Chevalier Adolphus Tulin, Consul-General at Tunis; Mr. Arrowsmith, the geographer; and Mr. Buckingham, the traveller. It is proposed, for the first time, to combine the influences of religion, commerce, and science, in the prosecution of a work dear to the interests of each,—and to employ, moreover, only native agency. By the expenditure of about five thousand pounds, a school may be established at Tunis—ten Arab pupils trained in all the arts of civilization—and as many travelling agents employed at once in the exploration of the country and the circulation of the Scriptures;—the whole machinery costing per annum less than the original sum to keep it in motion—a scale of outlay far below that of former efforts; our last steam-boat expedition up the Chedda river requiring a Parliamentary grant of 5,000*l*, and the journey of Lyon and Ritchie, into Fezzan, no less than 3,000*l*.

The selection of Tunis as the fulcrum of movement is significant and judicious. Within that territory are the sites of Carthage and Utica (the supposed Tarshish and Ophir of Scripture), and their excavation would give *éclat* to the commencement of operations. The Government is tolerant, well disposed, and stable; the people less bigoted, deceitful, and fierce than their neighbours. And even further south, the obstacles supposed to be presented by Mohammedanism are positive advantages in dealing with the Pagans of the interior. The Mussulman has sufficient respect for the Christian Scriptures to assist in their circulation side by side with, or in advance of, the Koran. Recent travellers warn us that the deism of Mecca is gaining upon the fetishism of Africa, and a Christian native attributes the prevalence of Mohammedanism simply to its having been first offered. From the scene of their earliest triumphs, the cross and crescent may now once more stream in beneficent rivalry upon the benighted desert below; and who shall doubt that not only the true God, but also the true Prophet, shall be accepted by the people who long ago "stretched out their hands?"

"PENNY WISE AND POUND FOOLISH."

THAT the whole is greater than the half, however axiomatic in mathematics, is not to be taken as a rule of finance, our erudite Chancellor of the Exchequer must have been taught by some signal "examples" in the Arithmetical Tables compiled by Peel and Gladstone. The penny postal system has made up a wonderful aggregate by division of one into two, and sometimes of one into twelve. We should like to urge upon Sir George Cornwall Lewis a further adoption of the principle, Divide and multiply.

The only respectable objection to his Newspaper Stamp Bill, was grounded on the prospective loss of revenue. Our contemporary, the *Leeds Mercury*, points out to him a method, even more certain than Mr. Gladstone's, of avoiding the deficit, and at the same time of greatly facilitating the working of his measure. It is described in the following paragraphs:—

If the stamp which freed the newspaper by the post were only a halfpenny, scores of thousands of subscribers would receive stamped papers in preference to un-stamped; because the convenience of receiving their papers by post, along with their letters, would be more than equivalent to the halfpenny expense. This would be the case even in large towns. But in the small towns and villages, where unstamped newspapers could not be bought, the working would be different. There the subscriber must either pay the penny or go without his newspaper. But he would feel it a hardship, that, whilst in towns men paid 4*d*. for their papers, he must pay 5*d*.; or, whilst they paid 3*d*., he must pay 4*d*. The difference would be 25 per cent., or even 33 per cent. on the cost of the newspaper. And it would be the poorer part of the population who would have to pay the higher price. A halfpenny in villages is thought nearly as much of as a penny in towns. Coming once a week, the difference would be felt; but, of course, if it came twice a week, it would be worse; and if it came every day, it would be worse still. A single halfpenny would be 12½ per cent. on a fourpenny paper, and 16½ per cent. on a threepenny paper. Our full belief is, that if the stamp were only a halfpenny, there would be a much larger number of papers sent to the villages than will be sent if the stamp is a penny.

It cannot be doubted that every possible contrivance will be resorted to, for the purpose of evading the payment of the penny stamp; and the force of our argument lies here, that a penny would give a motive and means of evading the Post-office, whilst a half-penny would not. All letter carriers will be encouraged to become dealers in newspapers. A large proportion of them are so already; but the motive will henceforth be much stronger. The railway companies and letter-carriers will between them almost completely take the newspapers out of the hands of the Post-office. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will prove to be penny-wise and pound-foolish. The expenses of the Post-office will continue to be just what they are at present, and the income from newspapers will be almost annihilated.

The suggestion is not exactly novel. It has been advanced before in our own columns, and in those of the *Gateshead Observer*; but it takes additional force from the large circulation and long experience of our Yorkshire contemporary. It requires no commendation to any who under-

stand the operations of journalism, either as a profession or a trade—nor, in truth, to any capable of weighing the common-sense considerations above stated. The only question with many will be, Is there yet time to give it available support? We think there is; and would at any rate advise that all petitions in favour of the Bill pray for its modification in this direction, and that our brethren of the weekly press interest themselves in its success—as surely they may with unexceptionable heartiness. The ingeniously vituperative opponents of the Bill can scarcely discover objection to this change in its provisions; and the friends of its principle should be warned that much more than a matter of detail is at stake. The unequal operation of an optional stamp, may oblige us to fight the battle over again at no distant day.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

The election of a member to represent the borough of Wilton in the room of Mr. a'Court, who has been appointed special commissioner of Property and Income-tax in Ireland, took place at Salisbury, on Wednesday, in the Town-hall. Mr. Edmund Antrobus, of Amesbury, was elected without opposition. In the course of his speech, he said: The subject of the grant to Maynooth had been much pressed upon him in the course of his canvass, and he had been repeatedly asked if he was prepared to vote against its continuance. Although, whilst he represented Surrey, he voted against the grant, and opposed the bill of the late Sir R. Peel for making it permanent, he was not now prepared to vote for its withdrawal. If the grant were withdrawn, we ought not to allow Roman Catholic members to sit in the House of Commons or to permit chaplains of the same persuasion to accompany our army. He was in favour of the abolition of Church-rates, as he believed that the hostile feeling they produced between Dissenters and Churchmen was productive of evil, and also because the latter could afford to support their own Church.

Mr. W. P. Price, who accepted the Chiltern Hundreds in order to relieve himself from any disabilities he had incurred in consequence of the extensive firm of timber merchants of which he is a member having constructed the tents for the soldiers in the Crimea, was re-elected for Gloucester, without opposition, on Saturday. On Wednesday, a requisition to Sir Charles Napier was got up, and signed (it is said) by 500 electors; but he refused to come forward.

The following is the result of the contest at Liverpool:—

Mr. Ewart	5,718
Sir S. G. Bonham, Bart.....	4,262

Majority..... 1,456

This is a great triumph for Liberalism in Liverpool, especially when it is recollected that Mr. Ewart declined to canvass or make any personal effort.

The resignation of Mr. Roche has taken his constituents at Cork county somewhat by surprise. Mr. Alexander McCarthy, formerly M.P. for the city of Cork, and Mr. Deasy, Q.C., are spoken of as probable candidates for the vacant seat, and of these the latter is considered to be the most likely to succeed.

The pending struggle in Cavan continues to excite considerable interest, and is looked upon as a direct issue between landlord influence and freedom of election on the part of the tenantry. The number of voters in all is 4,750; and of these upwards of 3,000 are Roman Catholics, who, to a man, would vote for Mr. Hughes, if left to the exercise of their independent will.

THE HOMEOPATHISTS.

A deputation, consisting of the following noblemen and gentlemen, had an interview with Lord Panmure, at his private residence in Belgrave-square, on Friday, to present to his lordship a memorial, praying that a civil hospital, at Smyrna or elsewhere in the neighbourhood of the theatre of war, might be appropriated for the treatment of our soldiers and sailors, according to the homoeopathic system: The Earl of Essex, Lord Lovaine, M.P., General Sir John Doveton, K.C.B., Admiral Gambier, Colonel Taylor, R.A., and Captain Fishbourne, R.N. The deputation was introduced by Lord Robert Grosvenor. The memorial set forth the success which had attended the treatment of disease by homoeopathic practitioners; the public recognition of the system in many states of Europe and America, where professorships are attached to the universities, the number of officers and men now serving in the East who had confidence in no other curative method. The memorial, which had merely been circulated for a short time amongst the highest and most influential classes, was signed by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Dukes of Beaufort and Wellington, the Marquis of Abercorn, 18 other members of the House of Lords; 49 peers' sons, baronets, and members of Parliament; 17 general, 33 field, and 48 other officers of the army; 2 admirals, 15 captains, R.N., 65 clergy and ministers; 45 justices of the peace, barristers, and solicitors; and by 314 bankers, merchants, and others. A memorial of a similar nature was also presented, the result of a public meeting in Manchester, signed by several of the largest and most wealthy manufacturers, clergy, and gentry of the place. Lord Panmure listened with great attention to the statements contained in those documents, as well as to some remarkable circumstances related by the members of the deputation, and informed them that he considered the memorial as one deserving every attention, that the subject presented numerous difficulties, but that he would take the whole matter into his consideration and make known to them his determination as soon as he was able.

THE WAR.

THE CRIMEA.

Official intelligence from the Crimea comes down to the 20th, correspondence to the 19th, and Russian news to the 24th. General Osten Sacken has sent two despatches. The first states that: "On the night between the 22nd and 23rd March a strong sortie was made to destroy the advanced works of the enemy (the Allies). It was attended with success. The works of the French were destroyed. On both sides the loss was considerable; the loss of the enemy (the French) was more considerable than ours."

The second is to the effect that in the night of the 23rd, and early morning of the 24th, the garrison of Sebastopol made a powerful sortie for the purpose of putting a stop to the works of approach made by the Allies near the Kamtschatka lunette. This operation, adds General Osten-Sacken, resulted to our advantage. Our men succeeded in destroying the works executed by the French during the last few days. The loss on both sides was considerable. Two French officers, one a colonel and the other a captain, fell into our hands, together with an English captain.

Lord Raglan's latest despatch is as follows:—

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, March 20, 1855.

My Lord,—In my despatch of the 17th instant I reported to your lordship the progress made in forming the parallel constructed to unite the right of our right attack with the left of the French on the Inkermann heights.

The contest of the latter with the enemy for the possession of the rifle pits in their immediate front was renewed after dark on that night, and was continued for several hours, the fire being excessively heavy, particularly of musketry, and considerable loss must have been sustained by our allies I fear, as well as by the enemy, who continue to hold the ambuscades; but the French persevere, notwithstanding, in working forward, and are approaching the Mamelon, on which the Russians are busily engaged in building a formidable work, though frequently interrupted by our batteries and those of the French. On the night of the 17th the English parallels were not attacked, but the fire to which I have above alluded was so continuous, that the whole force was either under arms or ready to turn out.

It was currently reported yesterday that Prince Menschikoff had died on his way to Moscow. I have not been able to ascertain if this report be founded; but it was so fully credited as to have been despatched to Constantinople. Prince Gortchakoff is stated to have arrived at Baktchi-Serai, and to have assumed the command of the army. Reinforcements are reported to be on their way from Russia, and the 9th Division to have reached the neighbourhood of Eupatoria. The position of the Russian troops in the vicinity of the Tchernaya remains unaltered.

The progress of the Railway continues to be satisfactory, and we are already enabled to use it with considerable advantage, both for the conveyance of supplies and hutting, so far as the high ground some way on this side of Kadikoi. Mr. Beattie's exertions deserve every commendation. I have, &c., RAGLAN.

The casualties from the 16th to the 18th of March were: total—1 officer, 1 sergeant, 10 rank and file wounded; 1 rank and file missing. The officer in question is Lieutenant George Mitchell, of the 57th foot.

Lord Raglan also encloses the weekly report from the Inspector-General of Hospitals to March 17. Dr. Hall states—

That though the sickness still amounts to 14.31 per cent., the mortality does not exceed 0.51 per cent, which is a proof that the diseases are milder in character; and I think I may safely say the general health and appearance of the men is greatly improved; and had not the duty, by the unavoidable operations of the siege going on, been increased of late, I think the sick list would have been still more diminished, as the men's condition is in every other way so much improved both in diet, dress, and accommodation. The prevailing diseases are fevers of a low typhoid form in some instances, and in others assuming an intermittent and remittent type, and bowel complaints have become much fewer in number, and milder in character. Scurvy, too, though the number appears large in the return, is on the decrease.

Admiral Bruat sends a brief despatch dated March 20th, as follows:—

Various nocturnal engagements have taken place on the left and on the right of our troops. On all points our soldiers have maintained their incontestable superiority over the Russian troops."

The following is the substance of unofficial telegraphic news to the 20th:—"The Russians still occupy the ambuscades, which the French attacked on the 17th and 18th without success and with loss. Reinforcements of 15,000 Russians arrived at Sebastopol on the 18th. On the same evening 15,000 Russians crossed the Tchernaya, and advanced on Baidar. For the last three days the Russians have ceased firing. The Russians and the Allies are occupied in strengthening their positions. The morale of the army is excellent. Sickness is on the decrease. Provisions are abundant."

"The Sinai brings news from Constantinople of the 22nd March. The works for the establishment of a reserved camp of 40,000 men, in the vicinity of Constantinople, are progressing rapidly. The Piedmontese troops, as also two new French regiments of the Chasseurs d'Afrique, expected from Algiers, will, it is said, form part of this camp. The Egyptian division, commanded by General Menokli, demanded by the Allies, was about to leave in sailing transports, towed by steamers. Four sorties made by the Russians from Sebastopol, between the 13th and 18th March, were victoriously repulsed by the Allies." Notwithstanding a general cannonade by the Russians on the 14th March, the French remained definitely masters of the ambuscades so often taken and retaken in front of the Malakoff Tower. The lower part of the roadstead of Sebastopol is now dominated by the batteries of the Allies, and the Russians are withdraw-

ing their ships. The works for the attack and defence are prodigious.

The *Invalid Russe* publishes accounts from Sebastopol to the 16th ult., which state: "The fire of the enemy's artillery does us scarcely any harm; thus, for instance, on the 11th March last no less than sixty bombs fell on one of our bastions, and yet only one man was wounded. The galleries of the besiegers' mine, which we discover, are constantly destroyed with unvarying success."

THE RAILWAY IN THE CRIMEA.

The public will learn with scarcely less surprise than satisfaction that the main object of the Crimean Railway Expedition is already completed, and that the munitions of war are now being conveyed direct from Balaklava to the trenches. Moreover, the line is now laid and worked from Balaklava to the French camp, at the top of the steep incline hitherto by horses, but at the date of the last advices the engine had begun to supersede animal power, which was gladly used for other purposes. Thanks to the agency of the railway, we have now begun to reciprocate the services the French had bestowed upon us in our extremity, for a large quantity of hut and hospital timber had been forwarded as long ago as the 10th, and such aid was highly appreciated by our Allies, who are enthusiastic in their admiration of the systematised application and endurance of the navvies, and delighted by the methodical order and regularity that prevail through all the arrangements of the corps. The branch to the opposite side of the harbour has for some time been completed, and available for running the heavy guns and mortars on the Diamond wharf, and, by rendering both sides of the harbour available, is of the greatest utility. The issue department of the commissariat for fuel and barley has, for some time back, been removed from Balaklava to Kadikoi, where the navvies had likewise constructed a proper depot and platform, with the requisite sheds and conveniences. Of the assistance which the railway corps are to the commissariat, and of the immensity of the operations of the latter department, some idea may be formed, when it is stated that of barley alone nearly one thousand sacks are required by the army daily. As further instances of the miscellaneous utility of the navvies, it may be mentioned that the Naval Brigade falling short of water, the well-sinkers belonging to the railway corps had been set to bore to obtain water in the neighbourhood of the camp, and it was expected that their researches would be speedily efficacious. The limekilns continue in full operation, and two more were being in course of construction near the Third Division, in the front. The washing place for the hospital had likewise been completed, and altogether the whole sphere embraced in, or influenced by, the operations of the railway corps was assuming an aspect in every way the reverse of what had prevailed a very short time ago.

We have an account of the first "railway accident" at the Crimea. It took place on the 10th: "A serious accident occurred to-day on that portion of the railway which is completed from Balaklava. While running in some trucks down a steep slope to the head of the harbour, the trucks got off the line and overturned, killing one Spanish muleteer on the spot, and so severely injuring one of the labourers that he died a few hours afterwards. Two others of the 'navvies' were also much injured, but they are likely to do well."

Sir S. M. Peto, who presided, on Friday, at the anniversary festival of the Royal Humane Society, gave some facts as to the progress and present position of the railway in the Crimea. That railway was commenced at Balaklava on the 20th February last, and on the 13th of the present month it was completed to the extent of two and three quarter miles. On the 17th of this month he received information that on the 14th and 15th they had been employed in taking up to the camp gun stores and 530 tons of ammunition. On the 26th, the line was to be completely finished to the English head-quarters, and would be then employed daily in carrying up 1,000 tons of stores and ammunition. As an illustration of the value of the railway, he might mention, that General Canrobert and the Emperor of the French had entrusted to the hands of the firm with which he was connected the performance of the same duties for the French, as they had accomplished for the English. It was acknowledged that the French had all along good roads, but General Canrobert saw that they could take up twenty guns in a less time and a less cost than he could take up one. He, as a philosopher and a soldier, felt no difficulty in sacrificing his own road in favour of a railway.

OPERATIONS ON THE CIRCASSIAN COAST.

The naval forces off the Circassian coast and the straits of Kerch are actively engaged. Lieutenant Armitage, in the Viper, visited the Kourban lake on the 8th; dispersed a party of Cossacks; captured a small vessel laden with charcoal and other goods; and destroyed the fort and barracks of the martello tower at Djumteia, spiked two guns and destroyed the ammunition; without any casualty to the crew of the Viper. Having heard from the Circassians that the Russians had diminished the armament and garrison at Soujuk-Kale, Captain Giffard proceeded thither on the 12th, with the Leopard, Highflyer, Swallow, Viper, and the French steamer Fulton. A heavy swell prevented the ships from closing with the batteries.

I therefore (writes Captain Giffard) threw some shells into the place; and the Circassians, who appeared in numbers, at the same time attacked the small fort at the head of the bay, opposite the town, drove out the garrison, and burnt it, at eight A.M.

This morning the Circassians informed me they had a sufficient force, and would attack Soujuk-Kale by land if I would do so by sea, and wishing to encourage them an

embarrass the enemy, I immediately moved the squadron to within 1,000 yards of the South Face and opened fire on it. From this point the enemy only had ten guns to bear on the ships, but the light wind and damp weather made the smoke hang over and conceal them from our fire, while our masts above were conspicuous to them.

We soon drove all the inhabitants and troops out of the place, except those in the earthen batteries, but I was much disappointed to find that the Circassians did not advance to attack them when out of the town, as they had promised. I, therefore, moved out again, as, with our small force of men, it would have been too great a risk to land, the main body of the garrison being close at hand.

The arsenal and public buildings are much injured, and several of the guns were silenced and dismounted. Our loss, I am happy to say, has been small; and some injury has been done to the masts and hulls of the ships.

I was much pleased with the able way in which all the ships took up their assigned positions, and have to thank Monsieur Le Bris, of the Fulton, Captain Moore, Commander Craufurd and Lieutenant Armitage, commanding the Viper, for their able support, as well as all the officers and men.

The Russian force, apparently 1,500 or 2,000 men, and the other inhabitants, are now encamped about a mile north of the town, having left a few men in the batteries; they will have great difficulty in communicating with Anapa, being surrounded by the Circassians (who were collecting reinforcements), and should they return to the town, a small naval force can at any time drive them out again.

THE HOSPITALS AT SMYRNA AND SCUTARI.

A party of forty nurses, one half ladies, the other half paid attendants, arrived at Smyrna on the 15th ult. It would seem that even here, in consequence of a misconception of the orders of the Government, no adequate provision had been made for their reception. Mr. Giudici, a merchant, offered his house for their use. But by the prompt exertions of Colonel Storks, in twenty-four hours they were installed in the house of a Turkish official. They were none too soon. The hospital is a handsome building, built in the form of three sides of a square, and facing the sea. There were on the 15th between 600 and 700 sick men within its walls. "The wards," says the *Times* correspondent, "though crowded, are free from all unpleasant odour; a strict sanitary system is about to be enforced; and the feelings of the patients are best expressed in their own language—'We begin to get well as soon as we come down here.'"

The *Medical Times* says: "Everything tends to confirm the impression, that Smyrna is a very unfit site for an hospital."

Twenty out of the twenty-two nurses at Scutari have been laid up by sickness; some have died. The Sanitary Commission has already done some good. The hospitals on shore at Scutari and Kulali, and the floating one off the Seraglio Point, have been inspected and reported upon. The works recommended are commenced. Mr. Wilson, one of the inspectors of nuisances from Liverpool, is stationed at Scutari, and has about twenty Turks and Greeks employed under him as scavengers. Dr. Sutherland, who had been confined to his bed with low fever, was to return to Smyrna; Mr. Rawlinson was to proceed to the Crimea about the 24th, after he had seen the works recommended by the commission fairly started.

A lady writes from Scutari: "Here, in one room, not very large, forty-five women, about thirty husbands, fifteen or eighteen children, born and being born, are together side by side, partitioned by nothing. There are about two hundred women altogether here, all living in the same way, and in a state of uncleanness not to be described—every Crimean abomination abounding."

Miss Nightingale, in writing to a gentleman in the neighbourhood of Bedford, in acknowledgment of the gift of 1,000 Prayer-books, recently transmitted to Scutari, says:—

We have less fever, and the deaths have fallen to twenty; now that the windows can be opened, we trust the fever will abate—indeed, the convalescents are become numerous. The loss by frostbitten feet has been severe, but with this exception there are scarcely any wounded in hospital. We have thirteen nurses and sisters ill, but, thank God, none have died, though some will be incapacitated from further duty. It is calculated one in five of the men read, and a great many books are now circulated among them, as well religious as entertaining. The Sanitary Commission has arrived, from which we expect great benefit to the future health of these hospitals.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCE.

According to the most authentic-looking statements of the Conference received from Vienna, it would appear that when the assembled diplomatists arrived at the third point, relating to the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea and the revision of the treaty of 1841—the touchstone of the whole negotiation—the Russian Plenipotentiaries found that they had not sufficient powers to enable them to continue the discussion. Under these circumstances, Prince Gortschakoff and M. de Titoff have written to the new Emperor, informing him of the demands of the Allies, and requesting instructions. It has been assumed that in the meantime the Conference will "pursue the study of the first and second points;" but there is some reason to think that they would rather proceed to the fourth, as the details of the first—the protectorate of the Principalities—must depend to a great degree on the decision arrived at with regard to the third. Later advices state that the Conferences are now suspended.

In connexion with the Conference, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Drouyn de Lhuys, has been on a brief visit to this country. He arrived on Thursday evening, had an audience of Her Majesty and a conference with Lord Palmerston and Lord Clarendon on the following day, and then returned at once to Paris. It was understood that he would remain there

only two days, and then proceed with all despatch to Vienna, stopping only to sleep at Strasburg and at Prague, on his way to that capital. The object and the effect of M. Drouyn de Lhuys' interview with Her Majesty and with the British Ministers was (says the *Times*) simply to establish, by direct personal conversation, that entire conformity of views which was already known to exist between the Western Cabinets, and to enable the French Minister to convey in his own person to Vienna the fullest assurance and most complete knowledge of the joint intentions of the Allied Powers. No difference of opinion had occurred to require either discussion or explanation, but, if we are correctly informed of the result of this interview, it established more completely than ever the identity of views existing between the Ministers of the two Crowns on the conditions of peace and the necessity, in the event of the failure of these negotiations, of a vigorous prosecution of the war. The effect of the arrival of M. Drouyn de Lhuys at Vienna will be that all the Courts engaged in these negotiations except Russia, will be represented there by one of the principal members of their respective Cabinets—Austria by Count Buol, England by Lord John Russell, France by the Foreign Minister of Napoleon III., and Turkey by Ali Pasha, who is on his way to the Conference.

DISBANDING OF MILITIA.

Nearly every Militia regiment is in a state of disruption. When the Act of Parliament which brought the Militia into being in 1852 was framed, no provision whatever appears to have been made for a difficulty which has now arisen. The Militia raised between the Act of 1852 and the 12th May, 1854, were liable to be called out under ordinary circumstances for periods not exceeding fifty-six days in each year; but should there be any danger of invasion, or other great and immediate call for their services, they were liable to be embodied for permanent duty. By the Act of 1854, all men subsequently enlisted for the Militia were bound to serve so long as the war lasted. Soon after that Act was passed, many of the Militia regiments being required for garrison duty, all the enrolled men were called out, and have been retained with their respective corps until now. However, there appear to have been suspicions on the minds of county members that all was not on the square; and questions, easy to ask, but difficult to answer, were asked again and again in Parliament. Government consulted the law-officers of the Crown, who gave it as their opinion that all Militiamen, whether enlisted before or after the new Act of Parliament, were bound to serve permanently, if required to do so. This opinion did not, however, suit the parties most concerned, and unmistakable grumblings began to be heard in many of the Militia regiments doing duty in various provincial towns. Lord Panmure then authorised the discharge of all men enrolled prior to the passing of the Act, or at any rate of such as did not wish to serve any longer—at the same time giving them the option of being re-attested for five years' service, with a bounty of twenty shillings for such as entered upon this fresh engagement. On Friday last these conditions were explained to the First Somerset militia stationed at Plymouth, and of this regiment—which is said to be one of the finest corps of embodied militia in the kingdom—414 men out of 500 took their discharge, and started by railway for their native county. On Wednesday last, about 500 men of the West Kent Light Infantry claimed to be released from duty, on the same grounds as those set forth by the 1st Somerset Militia. The North Durham have lost 770 men out of 800 during the past week. At Woolwich, the Hampshire Artillery Militia demanded, on Friday last, their discharge in a most disrespectful manner on parade. Of the Leicestershire Militia, 450 have obtained their dismissal, and only 120 of these have been re-attested under the new Act. The Suffolk Artillery have but 40 men left out of 130 that mustered at the Landguard Fort on Thursday last. The example set at Plymouth by the 1st Somerset Militia has been followed both by the South Devon Regiment and Devon Artillery in the same garrison, and to such an extent that the Major-General commanding the district and garrison has great difficulty in mustering men sufficient for garrison duty. Besides the Hampshire Artillery Militia, who asked for and obtained their discharge on Friday last at Woolwich, the Monmouthshire Militia, doing duty in the same garrison, in like manner demanded to return to their homes during the early part of last week, and the regiment is not now one-fifth its former strength. And so regiment after regiment might be enumerated that has, during the last fortnight lost from two-thirds to five-eighths of its men.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

A thousand English Lancers from India have reached Alexandria from Suez.

It is stated that Russian ships of the line and other vessels have been sunk between piles in the navigation way at Cronstadt.

The French Government has decided that all Russian prisoners, who, from wounds or any other cause, are incapable of bearing arms, shall be sent back to their own country immediately.

The ice still continues in Kiel Bay. A telegraphic message from Elsinore, dated Sunday, says: "The first four ships of the British Baltic fleet arrived here this afternoon."

The Earl of Carlisle has issued instructions that every sick and wounded soldier arriving in Dublin from the Crimea, shall be provided with a bed, breakfast, dinner, and tea, at his excellency's expense.

The *Cologne Gazette* of the 23rd ult. contained a very short summary of Lords Lyndhurst and Clarendon's speeches on Prussian policy, delivered in the House of Lords lately, and even for this the entire

impression was confiscated. The Government agents pounced on all the papers before they had well left the press. The *Times* of the 15th was confiscated in all public rooms, and wherever it could be found, for its article on Prussia.

A new knapsack to be used by soldiers in future is smaller than the present one, and fewer articles will be carried in it on the march; and there will be an improvement in the mode of carrying it and the great-coat.

In the sitting of the 24th of the Chamber of Deputies of Turin, General La Marmora, Minister of War, said that the Sardinian contingent would certainly go to the East, but whether to the Crimea was not yet decided.

It is stated that the Emperor of the French has agreed to send 50,000 additional troops to the Crimea, if it be necessary after the Vienna congress, on the condition that England should find the vessels to convey them.

The owners of the vessels recently taken up at Liverpool as transports by the British and French Governments, and ordered into dock for alterations, have since been informed that the vessels will not be required.

At the late audience granted to M. Guizot at the Tuilleries, the Emperor inquired of the Orleans minister his opinion on the chances of peace. M. Guizot was short, sharp, and decisive: "May it please your Majesty, peace or war entirely depends upon the will of two emperors, and one of them is dead."

A description of the battle of Inkermann, with five large plans, by a Russian general officer, is on the eve of being published at Berlin. The text is said to admit that the Russian commander committed some tactical errors of execution, but seeks to prove that the plan, "if" rigidly carried out, must have led to the annihilation of the Allies. Persons here believe that the object of publication is to save Menschikoff's reputation, and to damn that of his subordinates.

The event in which the incorrect report of the death of the Grand Duke Michael originated, is as follows: "It appears that Omar Pacha, walking through the fortifications of Eupatoria, saw at a distance in the plain a carriage drawn by six horses. He at once sent for the chief of his gunners, and asked if among his men there were any skilful enough to send a ball into the carriage. 'Excellency,' said the man, 'with the help of God, and your encouragement, I think I could reach it.' He pointed his piece at the spot indicated, and in the twinkling of an eye the carriage was seen smashed to pieces; but it could not be ascertained if they who were inside were killed or wounded."

Foreign and Colonial.

RUSSIA.

A letter from St. Petersburg, of the 15th, says that the nobles of the Government agreed upon an address to the late Emperor directly after the issue of his last manifesto. The address reached him upon his death-bed, when he was too weak to read it. On the 4th, the present Emperor received the deputation, and after listening to their expressions of condolence, addressed them in the following terms: "I have much desired to see you, gentlemen, in order to impart to you the words of our deceased benefactor and my father, of immortal memory. He was so weak that he could not read your address, but it was read to him by me. Your zeal soothed his dying moments. 'Thank them, thank them heartily' said he, 'tell them that I never doubted of them, and now I am more than ever convinced.' I thank you, gentlemen; I am convinced that the dying Emperor's words will sink into your hearts. You are the representatives of some who are absent: tell all of them this. We live in grievous times. I was accustomed always to say to the late Emperor, 'I trust in God's grace that He will protect Russia.' I hoped that we should have seen together the day of joy, but God has pleased to ordain it otherwise. On you, gentlemen, I rely with confidence. I reckon on you fully. I am sure you will not let your nobility be a name, your acts will be noble. Our nobles are not mean-spirited. It must be—I with you, and you with me. (Here the Emperor crossed himself, and continued)—May the Lord help us! We will not dishonour Russia. (Here the Emperor advanced, and embraced the spokesman of the party, and added)—In your persons I thank the entire nobility. Farewell, gentlemen, God be with you."

A St. Petersburg letter in the *Patrie* notices as a remarkable circumstance that since the commencement of the war all the French and English journals have been allowed freely to enter the capital, and to lie about on the tables in all the cafés. The object is supposed to be to excite the orthodox nobility against the infidel enemy. "You see how they insult your Emperor, and how they speak of yourselves."

The *Northern Bee* of St. Petersburg publishes a fanatical appeal to the Russian people to rise in arms for the defence of the Orthodox Church. It calls upon the clergy to exhort their flocks to fight for the good cause, and to impress upon them that the present war is the ancient war "of the Prince of Darkness against the Kingdom of Christ." It concludes with a prayer to the Almighty to admit those who fall on the field of battle for the good cause at once into the kingdom of Heaven. This address is said to have produced a considerable impression. One of the results has been to add—the Government giving its full consent—eleven priests to each cohort of militia (1,080 men.) These priests will carry at the head of every company, and by way of a standard, the double cross of the Eastern Church.

The Grand Dukes Michael and Nicholas are making preparations to return to the Crimea.

The *Press d'Orient* pretends that Prince Menschikoff is dead at Perekop. Advices from Odessa of the 18th contradict the report. The latter is the more probable statement.

A letter, dated Warsaw, March 20, says: All the regiments which were dislocated from the great central point, Radom, to Lublin and Czenstochau, are now on their march to join the army of the south; while, on the other hand, the troops in cantonments in Lithuania, and even the cavalry regiments, have received orders to march to the Baltic provinces, where a army of 150,000 men will be immediately concentrated. To prevent Poland from being left without troops, our fortresses and other important posts will be garrisoned by Asiatic hordes, now on their march from the Altai provinces. Some of these have already made their appearance in the neighbourhood of Kola. They call them there Bashkirs; but the construction and form of their countenances plainly denote that they do not belong to the Mongolian race, but rather to that of the Caucasus. Besides, they are not armed with bows and arrows, but with very long muskets, like the Arnauts.

INFRINGEMENT ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN SPAIN.

Lord Howden, the English Ambassador at Madrid, has lately had several rather warm discussions with the Spanish Ministry, on the subject of a gross infringement of the religious freedom of English subjects resident in that kingdom. Some days since the police of Seville surprised eight Protestants employed in the pious exercise of their religious duties. There could be no question of a flagrant violation of domicile, as the house of the Protestant minister had been invaded without the exhibition of any judicial authority. Lord Howden has protested against this proceeding, basing his complaint, first, on the breach made in the liberty guaranteed by treaties; and secondly, on the fact that the Spanish penal code authorises prosecutions only when the national religion is insulted by external acts. Besides, at Malaga, at Madrid, and other cities, it is notorious that Protestants enjoy the private discharge of their religious duties without annoyance. The Spanish Government have replied that they have as yet had no official information on the subject. It is probable that the matter will be arranged, and that the higher authorities will disavow the acts of the Seville police.

The Spanish Cortes has decided that the commission charged with inquiry into the acts of the Ministries which preceded the late revolution, should send in its report in the form of an indictment against the Saritorius Cabinet, with a summary of the evidence in support thereof.

AMERICA.

The news of the death of the Emperor of Russia had created a profound sensation in the United States; but owing to the false report of the fall of Sebastopol, in September last, the announcement was not believed by many, and the Russian minister at Washington had characterised it as an "unmitigated hoax."

San Francisco intelligence notices the programme of the new political party calling themselves the "Pacific American Party," and whose supposed object is the formation of a great Western Republic. The measures, which are at present kept in abeyance until certain objects are attained which it is hoped will prepare the public mind of the State for the consummation of the scheme proposed to be carried out, are a large delegation from the Pacific States in Congress; Oregon and California to be organised into States at once; California to be divided and two States made out of her territory; the Sandwich Islands and Sonora to be annexed, and as much more of the territory of Mexico as can be conquered or purchased; and, finally, out of the whole of the territories of the United States on the Pacific coast in possession and to be thus acquired six States are to be created instead of one. The financial features of the plan are equally bold and comprehensive in their character, and aim directly at the independence of the new confederation. It is stated that several of the most distinguished citizens of California were in favour of the new movement.

Advices from the Sandwich Islands state that the negotiation with the King, for the annexation of the islands to the United States, had been discontinued.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The King has invited Lord John Russell to spend Easter at Berlin.

An insurrection in Mesopotamia is reported, and the rebel Kurds are said to number 30,000.

There has been a very large increase in the receipts for custom-duties in France, in January and February.

Father Mathew, the Temperance apostle, is reported to be ill, and in pecuniary distress, at Madrid.

A locomotive, with cars attached, has crossed and recrossed the Railway Suspension bridge at Niagara.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe was so far recovered on the 19th instant as to be able to attend, as usual, to business.

In the sitting of the 24th of the Chamber of Deputies of Turin a bill for a levy of 13,000 men was adopted.

Several of the English missionaries lately expelled from Poland for the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, have arrived at Hamburg on their way home.

By the completion of a section of the Bordeaux and Bayonne line, there is now uninterrupted railway communication between Paris and Bayonne, a distance of 500 miles.

The number of new cafés and restaurants in Paris is almost incredibly large, and they are fitted up with greater splendour than the most famous of the many famous cafés already existing. In some of the

restaurants, there are footmen in gold-laced liveries, and ushers with silver chains round their necks; and the table utensils and decorations try to rival those of the highest aristocratic houses in splendour—as much, that is, as *Ruel's* can rival *plate*. And in these restaurants you can get a dinner of what *professes* to be "all the luxuries of the season," and a bottle of what is called the best wine, for five francs!

A letter from Sydney says that the population seem prostrated by the overwhelming hot weather—thermometer at 90° in the shade. This summer has been rather a disastrous one, so great a drought not having occurred since 1839.

A new Belgian Ministry has at length been formed as follows: Viscount Vilain XIV., Foreign Affairs; M. de Decker, Interior; M. de Nothomb, Justice; General Greind, War; M. Dumon, Public Works; M. Mercier, Finances.

Madame Goldschmidt (Jenny Lind) has left Holland for Dresden; but, not to leave our Dutch friends utterly disconsolate for her loss, she has promised to return, and resume her professional avocations after Easter.

While other cities in the Turkish empire are falling to ruin and decay, being depopulated and barbarised, Jerusalem is rapidly springing up into new life. European manners and European wants are bringing in civilisation and enterprising industry. Good hotels are found to accommodate most travellers better than the Casa Nuova, so long the only shelter for the Frank pilgrim of whatever nation or religion. There are shops, where all kinds of European goods find a ready sale for their commodities; carpenters, watchmakers, blacksmiths, glaziers, tinmen, dyers, laundresses, shoemakers, &c., exercise their various callings. There are three flourishing European tailors. The daily markets are supplied abundantly with good mutton; and poultry and eggs are cheap. Many hundred goats are kept for the sole purpose of supplying the city with milk; and of late cow's milk is to be had. Fruit and vegetables are abundant; and good bread is made by several bakers.

Court, Personal, and Official News.

The visitors at the Palace have included the Duke of Cambridge, the Prince of Leiningen, the Maharajah Duleep Singh, the Earl of Harrowby, the Earl St. Germans, Earl Grosvenor, Mr. Sidney Herbert, and Major Oliphant.

A Cabinet Council was held on Saturday afternoon at the Foreign-office, Downing-street. The Council sat two hours.

The Queen held a Drawing-room (the first this season), on Thursday afternoon, in St. James's Palace. Before the Drawing-room, Her Majesty, according to annual custom, received a deputation from Christ's Hospital in the Throne-room. The Duke of Cambridge, President of the Institution, was present in the Throne-room with Her Majesty and the Prince. The Queen inspected the charts and drawings of the boys, and expressed her approbation of the performances.

On Friday morning last Her Majesty, Prince Albert, with six of the Royal children, and suite, paid a visit to an exhibition now open for the sale of works of art for the benefit of the Patriotic Fund. Her Majesty at once purchased a frame of six illustrations in outline, by Miss Frazer, of the poem of "The Wreath." The Queen made other selections. Five of the Royal children have contributed drawings of their own; they are all clever productions—that of the Princess Royal, entitled "The Battle-field," is a masterly work for one so young.

By command of Her Majesty, fifty men of the brigade of Guards on service in the Crimea, invalided during the different military operations, attended at Buckingham Palace at three o'clock on Monday afternoon, and were inspected by the Queen and Prince in the Grand Hall. Afterwards, Prince Albert, accompanied by Lord Hardinge, went to Aldershot to inspect the works in progress for the accommodation of the troops.

The Queen visited the Crystal Palace on Saturday morning, and in the afternoon held a Privy Council at Buckingham Palace. The Earl of Harrowby and the Hon. E. P. Bouverie were sworn of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and took their places at the Board accordingly. Earl Granville resigned his seals of office as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, which were delivered to the Earl of Harrowby.

Mr. Burke Roche, M.P. for the county of Cork, is to be raised to the Irish peerage under the title of Baron Fermoy.

Last year the revenue derived from newspaper stamps, at the penny duty was 464,000L 1s. 7d. The number issued was 111,362,179.

The Earl of Harrowby has been appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. This, with Mr. Bouverie's appointment to the Vice-Presidency of the Board of Trade, and Mr. Brand's acceptance of the Junior Lordship of the Treasury, leaves but one office—the Colonial Under Secretaryship—vacant in the Administration. Mr. Brand will undertake the English department of the Treasury, Lord Monck succeeding Mr. Fortescue as Irish Lord.—*Globe*.

The Hon. James Kenneth Howard succeeds the Right Hon. T. F. Kennedy as a Commissioner of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues. Mr. Howard is a brother of the present Earl of Suffolk, and is married to the only daughter of the Marquis of Lansdowne.

Thomas Graham, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., Professor of Chemistry at University College, succeeds Sir John Herschel as Master of the Mint. Professor Graham's reputation as a scientific chemist is European.

A deputation from the deputies of the three denominations of protestant dissenters for the protection of their civil rights had an interview with Sir George

Grey on Friday at the Home-office, on the subject of the Dissenters, Marriage Acts Amendment Bill and the Places of Religious Worship Registration Bill. The deputation consisted of Mr. Apsley Pellatt, M.P. (chairman), Mr. George Offor, Mr. Charles Read, Mr. R. H. Terrell, and the secretary, accompanied by the following members of Parliament: Mr. Kershaw, Sir W. Clay, Bart., Sir George Goodman, Mr. E. Ball, Mr. R. Milligan, Mr. J. Crook, Mr. F. Crosley, and Mr. G. Hadfield.

The supporters of Lord Ebrington entertained him at a dinner on Wednesday, at the Freemason's Tavern, Sir Benjamin Hall, the other member for Marylebone, was also present. He took occasion to express the pride he felt in being the author of the Local Management of the Metropolis Bill, and to announce that the Government is prepared to carry it through. Great opposition he had met with, and no doubt he should meet with more; but opposition is the tonic of official life, and it had made him a very strong man.

Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston had an assembly on Saturday night at the noble viscount's mansion on the terrace, Piccadilly. Previously to the reception, the noble viscount and viscountess entertained at dinner the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, his Excellency the Earl of Carlisle, the Earl and Countess of Shaftesbury, the Countess of Flahault and Mille. Elphinstone De Flahault, Viscountess Ebrington, Lord Stanley of Alderley, Sir Charles Wood, Hon. F. Byng, Mr. Greville, and Mr. Augustus Paget.

Mr. Charles Mathews declares, by advertisement, his inability to further encounter managerial responsibilities. He assigns the illness of Mrs. Mathews, the badness of the times, and the want of capital, as the main causes of his failure.

Dr. Whewell, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, has resigned the Professorship of Moral Theology or Casuistical Divinity, which he has held since the year 1838.

A public meeting of the inhabitants of St. Pancras, on Monday last, passed resolutions almost unanimously in favour of Sir B. Hall's bill for regulating the local government of the metropolis.

Miscellaneous News.

As soon as the Paris Exhibition opens, a daily steam-packet communication will be established between Southampton and Havre.

At a meeting of ironmasters at Wolverhampton, on Wednesday, it was resolved to reduce the price of bars and hoops 20s. a ton.

Three Russian prisoners scaled the walls of Lewes Gaol the other day, and were at large for a time; but they were quickly recaptured.

Death has ensued from an accident which befell Colonel Commeline, of Cheltenham, while hunting in Oxfordshire on Monday last. The Colonel was pitched from his horse and alighted on his head.

Great distress prevails among the carpet-weavers of Kidderminster; numbers of men, women, and children being out of employ. Some of the sufferers ask for means to emigrate. Lord Ward and the inhabitants of the town have given temporary aid.

A destructive fire at Sunderland broke out on Friday night among a block of river-side property, in a warehouse stored with chemicals. About 10,000L worth of property was destroyed. It has not yet been ascertained how the fire originated.

On Wednesday, the Rev. J. P. Francia, vicar of St. Peter's and Holy Cross, Westgate, Canterbury, who had been in a low, melancholy way, was found a lifeless corpse in his study. He had discharged a loaded pistol into his mouth, which shattered his head in a frightful manner. The reverend gentleman was eighty-four years of age.

The Rev. George Dover, incumbent of St. Mary's, Kirkdale, expired suddenly during the celebration of Divine service on Sunday morning. The reverend gentleman had just ascended the pulpit (after three or four weeks' absence from indisposition), and was in the act of giving out the text (Mark xiv., verses 6 to 9), when he was observed to lift his hand to his eyes, as if his vision was suddenly affected, and then instantly to stagger and fall down. The congregation were, of course, greatly alarmed, and some of the female portion uttered loud screams, whilst several gentleman immediately rushed up the pulpit stairs, but it was only to witness their respected pastor breathe his last.

An enormous seal was seen, on Friday, disporting itself in the turbid waters of the Severn, near Newnham, about twelve miles from Gloucester. A numerous body of salmon fishermen immediately turned out in their boats to give chase to the stranger. Harpoons, rifles, revolvers—every kind of destructive appliance was brought into use; but for hours did the amphibious visitor defy the utmost efforts of its pursuers. At last a couple of hardy fishermen contrived to drive it into a shoal; both the men jumped into the stream, when the seal sprang at one of them, but fortunately missed him. The other man then took hold of it by one of its hind legs, and so held it while his companion killed the prey by beating it over the head with a staff. After its capture it was found that the animal had been wounded in several places by the bullets, but not mortally. It was shown in the neighbouring towns and villages by its captors, who must have realised a considerable sum by the exhibition.

The *Chicago Press* records a terrible disaster which overtook a party of travellers during the severe weather of January in the wilds of the far west. Last Tuesday morning, a man passing over a prairie only about five miles from Oxford came upon a sight which filled him with horror. The carcasses of two oxen, from which the viscera had been removed, lay upon the ground. Inside of one of them were the frozen bodies of four children, and in the other the frozen corpse of the mother, with a nursing infant at her breast. Under

the snow was a heap of ashes, in which the iron of the waggon showed that the party had broken them up, and burned everything they had in them, in the effort to save their lives. Not far from this spot was found the body of the other woman of the party, partly concealed in a snowdrift, and near her one of the men. The two other men had not been found. It is probable that the party became inextricably involved in the snowdrifts on the bleak prairie, and lost their presence of mind. After burning up their waggons, it would seem that the men had killed two of the oxen for a shelter to those found in them, and then, accompanied by one woman, vainly endeavoured to reach the town they had left, and procure aid to rescue their companions. The two other oxen had wandered off.

The annual meeting of the Royal Dispensary for Diseases of the Ear was held yesterday, at the Board-room, in Dean-street, Soho-square. The Rev. T. Davis Lamb was unanimously called to the chair. Mr. Hawey moved that the report be read, and the motion having been seconded, the Secretary proceeded to read a very elaborate report, from which we give the following extracts: "To provide a source available for the industrious poor, this useful and excellent institution was established in 1816, under the patronage of their late Majesties George IV. and William IV., and the object of the institution is the cure of deafness, discharges, noises in the head and ears, and other distressing diseases of a kindred nature, generally incapacitating the poorer classes from pursuing their avocations. This valuable institution has been in active operation for forty years. During the past year, 1,410 patients have been admitted on the books, 371 have been cured, 300 have been relieved, consisting clerks in offices, needlewomen, domestic servants, artisans, soldiers, distressed foreigners, and police, who have received advice and assistance from the surgeon, William Harvey, Esq." The report then sets forth the more prominent causes of deafness, which are indeed numerous, and such as do not occur to the mere casual observer. The various resolutions were moved of thanks to the nobility, clergy, and subscribers, and a vote of thanks being given to the surgeon, Mr. Harvey, and to the reverend chairman, the meeting separated.

Law, Police, and Assize.

Henry Beresford Garrett was re-examined on Friday, charged with having been concerned, with three others, in robbing the Bank of Victoria, in Australia. William Jarvis, a detective officer, put in some documents found at prisoner's lodgings, which connected him with the three persons now in custody, at Melbourne. Alexander Pope, mate of the Dawstone, on her voyage from Sydney to London, in November, said the prisoner was a cabin passenger, and had a lady with him as his wife. Prisoner and the lady went on shore at Deal, on the 12th instant. (He then identified the lady in court.) The magistrate adjourned the proceedings, with the understanding that the prisoner would be committed to Australia for trial.

The Rev. Joseph Clarke, Curate of Sefton, brought an action at the Liverpool Assizes, against Mr. Richmond, of Great Crosby, to which parish the plaintiff was presented as perpetual curate, and refused by the bishop on account of imputation of drunkenness by the defendant. A number of witnesses were examined on both sides. Verdict for the plaintiff, damages 25.

At the Marylebone Police-court, yesterday week, Mrs. Ramsbotham, wife of the well-known physician, was charged with having stolen four cambric handkerchiefs, the property of Mr. John Moule, carrying on business as a draper, &c., at No. 54, Baker-street. The first witness called was Samuel Welch, who said: I am an assistant to Mr. Moule. The prisoner has been in the habit of coming to our shop and making purchases. This morning, between eleven and twelve o'clock, she came alone. I was standing in the centre of the shop, and the man who was serving her at the counter had occasion to go away. I was looking in the direction where she was, and saw her turn round and take four cambric handkerchiefs from a basket which was upon the counter. She put them in the pocket of her dress. She went out, and I followed her, and saw her go into a stationer's shop. When she came out, I addressed her, and asked her if she had not been at Mr. Moule's; she said she had not been there, but almost immediately she said, "Oh, yes, I have." I requested her to step back with me, which she did without hesitation, and on our way along Baker-street she said, "I have got the handkerchiefs in my pocket." I took her up stairs to Mr. Moule, when she drew from her pocket the four handkerchiefs, and laid them upon the table, saying, "I merely took them for the purpose of showing them to my sister, and if she had not approved of them I should have returned them." Mr. Broughton said that he must remand the prisoner to a future day, and it would then be necessary to have present the assistant by whom the prisoner was served. Mr. Herring: Will your worship take bail? Any amount of bail can be forthcoming. Mr. Broughton: I don't feel that I should be acting right in doing so, after the evidence which has been adduced. I am bound, Mr. Herring, to do what I consider to be justice, irrespective of rank or condition in life as to any party who may be charged before me. The prisoner was then removed from the bar by the gaoler, and locked up. On Friday, on the production of a medical certificate to the effect that her reason would be endangered by confinement, Mr. Broughton liberated Mr. Ramsbotham on heavy bail. On Monday the lady was again brought up in a very crowded Court. She was defended by Mr. Ballantine, who

exchanged some sharp words with the magistrate on his requiring her to lift her veil. Towards the close of the examination Mr. Broughton said both he and Mr. Moule, the prosecutor had received letters intended to deter them from the discharge of their public duty. The writer of one of the letters described himself as a "friend of Lord Palmerston," and the letter to Mr. Moule threatened him with loss of custom. The Court applauded when he declared his resolution to deal with Mrs. Ramsbotham as he had already dealt with two poor women charged with a similar offence. He required two sureties of 1,000*l.* each for her appearance to answer any charge that might be preferred at the Westminster Sessions.

Daniel Press, a lad of thirteen, and a man named Noquet, keeper of a lodging-house in Spitalfields, have been convicted at the Middlesex Sessions, the lad of stealing from his father a coat, waistcoat, and watch chain, and the man of disposing of them. Only 4*s.* 9*d.* was given for all the articles, and the money was spent at the Britannia Saloon. Sentence was postponed, that the habits of Noquet might be investigated.

At the Norwich assizes, the Rev. F. W. Waldron brought an action for libel against the Rev. William Bates, Rector of Burnham. The plaintiff, formerly the curate of Mr. Bates, is the master of an endowed school at Wyndham, in Leicestershire. The libel consisted of a letter written by Mr. Bates to the trustees of the school, proffering proofs of the abominable wickedness of Mr. Waldron, and calling upon them to dismiss him. Hence the action. The defence was a justification of the libel to the satisfaction of the jury. It was made out, that while Waldron was curate at Burnham he had artfully seduced his servant Louisa Johnson, a girl of seventeen, and finally had recourse to violence to gratify his passions. In the same house lived Mrs. Childs, mistress of the adjoining National Schools; and it seems that the poor girl complained to her of the conduct of Waldron in its earliest stages; but Mrs. Childs took no steps for the girl's protection. Recommended by Waldron, Louisa Johnson accepted a situation in the house of Mr. Bates, a barrister, and the brother of the Rector of Burnham. Here her misfortune made itself evident, and she was sent home. On his side, Mr. Waldron denied every statement made by Louisa Johnson, Mrs. Childs, and Mr. Bates. He called a witness, Mary Ann Grix, with the view of showing that Johnson had been intimate with one Norris, a lad. But "Polly Grix" also gave evidence that Mr. Waldron was on "good terms" with her too, and was accustomed to kiss her "by way of a joke," and take her on his knee. The Chief Baron had Mr. Waldron called into court: he heard the statements, and denied that he had ever kissed Mary Ann Grix. The jury found a verdict for the defendant.

At the Kingston Assizes, Robert Simpson, an engine-driver on the South-Eastern Railway, was tried for the manslaughter of several persons by negligently causing a collision at Croydon, in August last. This was the case where an excursion-train from Dover ran into an engine belonging to the Brighton Company, which was standing on the main line to take in water, —a dangerous practice. The jury agreed with the prisoner's counsel, that the disaster was not caused by his negligence, and quickly pronounced a verdict of acquittal; the foreman adding that they exonerated him from all blame. It was alleged that his trial was really at the instance of the Brighton Company; it was avowed that the South-Eastern Company provided for Simpson's defence; the two companies have yet to settle which is to bear the costs of the "accident" some 12,000*l.*

At the Warwick Assizes, a very novel case was tried —a gentleman having brought an action against a lady for breach of promise of marriage! The ungrateful plaintiff was Mr. Keane, a chemist of Atherstone; the defendant, Miss Perkins, daughter of a neighbouring farmer. Damages were laid at 1,000*l.* It appears that there had been a positive engagement, and that the plaintiff had taken and furnished a house in anticipation of the event. But the fair one changed her mind and declined to marry Mr. Keane; "she could not like him well enough." She asked for her bill, which was duly sent. After the examination of some witnesses, and a humorous speech from Mr. Macaulay, in which he remarked that plaintiff had sent in his bill instead of taking his prussic acid like a man, the Judge summed up. He said, if they believed Mrs. Keane, there was a promise; beyond that there was not much. They were at the cattle show, feeling the tails of the beasts, and so on; but he walked behind her, and she did not even look over her shoulder at him. The case for damages did not seem much. The jury found for the plaintiff—damages, one shilling. Mr. Serjeant Miller asked his lordship to certify for costs. Mr. Baron Alderson said, certainly not. He thought the action should not have been brought. He was of opinion a gentleman in such a case should acquiesce in the lady's decision, upon the principle that—

"If a lass won't change her mind,
Nobody can make her."

And then there were two other lines, the last ending with the words that somebody he would not mention "might take her."

At the North Riding of Tipperary Assizes, two men named Michael Hogan and Timothy Ryan, have been convicted of the murder of a young man named Mullowny, the crime having been committed on the fair day of Nenagh, in August last, and the cause being an old feud which the family of one of the prisoners had with the father of the deceased. On being asked by the Clerk of the Crown what they had to say why sentence of death and execution should not be passed upon them, the prisoners, who are young men, said nothing. Serjeant Berwick then addressed the prisoners in very impressive and feeling terms, and sentenced them to be executed on Tuesday, the 2nd May next, and their bodies to be buried within the

precincts of the gaol. Hogan asked that his body might be given to his friends. Judge: The law does not allow me to comply with your request. The mother of Hogan screamed loudly after the sentence was pronounced.

Two Scripture-readers, named William Corbitt and William Murphy, were brutally attacked, last week, near Ballybough-bridge, Dublin, by a crowd of 100 persons, chiefly females, who pelted them with filth and stones; they were walking together conversing at the time of the attack. Three women, named Martha Mitchell, Mary Mitchell, and Mary Norman, were brought up at the New Court charged with the offence. Dr. Kelly commented in very strong language on the gross outrage committed by a crowd of women on the two complainants. Such conduct, he said, was anti-Christian in the extreme, and a disgrace to the city of Dublin. He acquitted one of the prisoners, and sentenced the other two to a fine of 5*l.*, or in default of payment, to two months' imprisonment.

Literature.

Memoir of the Life and Writings of James Montgomery. By JOHN HOLLAND and JAMES EVERETT. Vols I. and II. London: Longman and Co

[Second Notice.]

MONTGOMERY stayed in the shop of Mr. Hunt, at Wath, for about a year; and then beginning to experience the restlessness and ambition of a young poet bent on fame, he proceeded to London, to which he had already sent a manuscript volume of poems. He had an introduction from a bookseller in the neighbourhood of Wath to Harrison, the London publisher. Harrison declined to print the poetry of Montgomery, but gave him a situation in his establishment. This partly met Montgomery's views; but the young man of eighteen could not give himself wholly to business, for he felt that a future was before him. He made various attempts at introduction to the public, in both prose and verse: and wrote, amongst other things, a novel in the style of Fielding and Smollett, which was to have brought him twenty pounds. Great was his disappointment when he found it rejected, on the ground that the author *swores so horribly* that the publisher was afraid to print it. Montgomery himself never used an oath in his life; but he had adhered so faithfully to his models, that he had exceeded them in *one* at least of their characteristics. It was subsequently a matter of rejoicing to the pious poet, that he had not been so unfortunate as to succeed in giving to the world that which was a violence to his own nature, and which he would always have regarded with regret mingled with shame. All his literary projects and attempts, at this period, were unsuccessful; and it happening that he had a disagreement with his employer, he resolved on returning to Wath. And so closed his brief London career; in which he personally preserved the purity and separateness from the world which belonged to his school and village life, having never so far gone into the London world as to visit a theatre, or even enter the British Museum.

After his return to Wath, he was for awhile occupied with his old employer; but at length saw an advertisement in a Sheffield newspaper for a clerk, to which he replied, and eventually obtained the situation. His new employer was Mr. Gales, bookseller, auctioneer, and publisher of the *Sheffield Register*. Montgomery was at first occupied in the auctioneering department; and, at a time when he was thirsting for book knowledge, had frequently to suffer the mortification of assisting at the sale of books he must not look at, though burning to peruse them. By and bye, he became more immediately connected with his master's newspaper, and assisted in its preparation. Our readers know what stormy and difficult political times those were. It seems that Gale was associated with the party obnoxious to the Government; and very soon he was so threatened with arrest and prosecution, that it was expedient for him to decamp. The *Register* then came to an end; but in its last number "J. Montgomery and Co." announced the commencement of a new journal, to be called the *Iris*: and thus Montgomery was launched on the then boisterous sea of political journalism. He was all along a suspected man; and it was soon found possible to involve him in difficulty for the publication of a hawker's ballad, which, though originally published thirty years before, was construed to have some deadly dangerous reference to the policy of the Government. He was convicted, though most ably defended by a man whose name will be long remembered for his boldness and freedom in a time of great difficulty, Felix Vaughan. After spending three months of his twenty-third year of life in York Castle—which seem to have been really favourable to his preparation for the true aims and enduring work of his life, as a poet—he returned to the *Iris*; but speedily was the object of another prosecution, for a comment, in that journal, on the conduct of a militia officer, in drawing and using his sword on the populace, when dispersing an assembly. It was a moderate comment enough;

but there was no free speech on common things in those days of prosecution and severe punishment for everything and anything that seemed to reflect on the ruling powers or their minions:—so Montgomery was again committed to York Castle for six months, and fined thirty pounds. During this imprisonment it was, that the *Iris* was edited by Montgomery's friend, John Pye Smith. But we need not enter into further details, as this part of the poet's life is already pretty well known to most of our readers. Some interesting particulars, which we cannot transcribe here, will be found in these volumes by those who wish to know more of the matter. Perhaps one of the most touching of these is—that on the evening preceding his trial for seditious libel, he was visited by an old man who came to offer him consolation, and, if necessary, substantial aid; and this visitor turned out to be his old Wath employer, Mr. Hunt, who remembered him still and ever with affection and respect. When all the hubbub of those absurd prosecutions was over, and reform was *not* sedition, and love of liberty was no longer dangerous to the Throne and the Church, the magistrates who had committed Montgomery delighted to show him honour; and the militia colonel who prosecuted him became respectful and sincerely friendly towards him. It was Montgomery's reward and praise to conquer the good-will and esteem of those who had disliked and injured him; and with a quiet satisfaction and pleasure, unmixed with conceit or the feeling of triumph, he was accustomed to review those days, and to speak of the change that had taken place in the estimation and treatment of the once convicted defamer and sedition-monger.

One might almost say that the incident of Montgomery's life ended with his second liberation from confinement. His subsequent career presents, indeed, a very interesting picture; but it is a quiet one, of poetical composition and publication, the gradual development of character and growth of fame, and the pursuit of philanthropic and religious aims. Impossible as it is for us to enter into the minute details of this quiet, protracted life, we shall best serve the volumes before us, and most deeply interest our readers, by a few representative extracts. At first, we thought of telling the circumstances of the publication of Montgomery's first volume of poems, and briefly tracing his literary career as far as these volumes extend; but we decide for a course which will give the reader more of these *Memoirs*, and less of ourselves:—

MONTGOMERY'S RELIGIOUS HISTORY.

"In the year 1802 [he said, in conversation with Mr. Everett] I met a few times in Charles Clarke's class, in the house of old Benjamin Charlesworth. . . . Poor Charles strove hard to make a Methodist of me at that time, but could not succeed. Yet never shall I forget the pleasure I felt in some of those meetings, while associating with some of the poorest of Christ's flock. I feel grateful for the kind attention they paid to my best interests; for they were the only persons who, at that time, 'cared for my soul,' and I have often had to lament that I was not more faithful to the good impression produced. It was then that I began to attend Norfolk-street Chapel, and a change took place in my spirit and character from that time. . . . The *Whisperer* (an early publication of the poet's), as I told Archdeacon Wrangham, is at once a monument of my religion and my apostasy; for there may be perceived what I was taught in my youth, and the dreadful use which I made of it. . . . For the space of ten years I was in a state of the most dreadful apostacy of spirit, though, in the midst of this departure from God, I had many awful misgivings, and was the subject of the deepest occasional melancholy. Some painful circumstances, especially after my last release from York Castle, led to the most poignant distress of mind. It was in reference to this departure from his first religious principles and impressions, that he wrote the hymn beginning with

"I left the God of truth and light."

This touching record of Montgomery's religious 'experience,' at the period referred to, is the first of the original hymns in the *Christian Psalmist*.—Before this time, he had ceased to attend those political *symposia* at Mrs. Hill's public-house in the Wicher, where, with his friends Rhodes, Hanson, and Bailey, and two or three other persons, he had for some years pretty generally spent his evenings. The party always sat in a small room apart from other company, and conversation on the topics of the day, including literature, science, and the fine arts, was the charm which drew and kept them together; while the pipe and the glass were rather the symbols and the fetters of a bad habit than the media of anything like intemperance. But when Montgomery, like the prodigal in the Gospel, 'came to himself,' so to speak, and began to reflect on his position from a moral and religious as well as from an intellectual point of view, he felt strong misgivings as to the propriety of maintaining his title to such flattering good-fellowship, at such an expense of time, conscience, and self-respect. In this state of mind, preparing one evening to go and meet his friends as usual, he took down his top-coat—so he told our common friend, Mr. Blanchard—but instead of putting it on, he reflected, hesitated, resolved; and hanging it up again on the peg, took his seat at his own fireside, and never resumed his visits to the Wicher.—Of Montgomery's personal piety, and of his earnestness in the cause of religion generally, as well as of his almost life-long attachment to the worship and labours of the Methodists, these pages will afford abundant evidence. Nevertheless, we may here remark that we cannot but regard it as a happy circumstance for the town in which he resided, whatever it may have been for the poet himself, that when he returned to those paths of godliness from which since boyhood he had wandered, there was no Moravian community in Sheffield; and, next to this, the

fact that he did not join himself to any other religious party. It is not by this remark, intended to underrate the importance of the 'communion of saints,' in any section of the Christian Church, much less to disparage the catholic character of the brethren's unity; but occupying such an important position as he presently did, through the threefold agency of his newspaper, his poetry, and his public speaking, it must be attributed mainly to the circumstance above mentioned, that his benevolent influence, instead of being confined to any one party, was so widely felt and acknowledged."

These volumes are rich in letters from Montgomery to various friends—those to Roscoe, Southey, and Daniel Parken (once editor of the *Eclectic*), especially possessing a high order of merit and very interesting. We cannot find room for a complete specimen, and so make an extract from one addressed to the Misses Gale, in which Montgomery, being in one of his lighter moods, gives the following description of

A POET'S HOLIDAY.

"My dear Friends,—You will be curious, if not anxious, to know how I come on in the world of Scarborough. Since I wrote last to you, I have outlived a whole generation of visitors at this house, and am now a kind of antediluvian patriarch of a whole fortnight's standing, which at this place is a most venerable age. In consequence of this, I have been, by the law of primogeniture, exalted to the head of the table, which you may be sure is an honour I was most reluctantly compelled to accept, and which I bear most meekly. Hitherto, I have had good supporters and counsellors about me, in some fat and fair ladies, who sit next to me, and among whom I appear like a rushlight among torches. They assist me in carving, and almost entirely save me the trouble of talking, for both which obligations I am most truly their humble servant; but, except at table, I am inflexibly shy, and have never been squire to any one of them yet, though more elderly gentlemen than I am have been proud of accompanying them in their morning walks. My favourite, however, is gone this morning; though she did not weigh more than twenty stone, I shall feel a great loss of her. She was a lady from London, dressed as magnificently as a duchess, and had as jolly, handsome, and good-natured a countenance as I ever saw, and she was always so kind to me that I should have liked her no less if she had had only half the weight and beauty she possessed. . . . How do you employ your time? you are ready to ask. I employ it so stupidly that I could well afford to lend six hours a day, on good security, to any lady or gentleman who would pay me handsome interest for it. I eat, and drink, and walk all day, and try to sleep all night. I never in my life lived so long without fire. It is a fact that I have never seen a fire in this house, nor been near one in all Scarborough, except at the barber's shop, to the best of my recollection. There is self-denial with a vengeance for you! I only smoke one pipe at night, and sometimes none. I have several times been out in a small boat for a few miles in the bay. This is very pleasant; and the sea breezes are like gales from paradise, they warm my withered heart into life, and blow my mildewed cheeks into bloom. One evening I went out a fishing, and had charming sport: for two hours in a chill atmosphere, on a dark sea, I watched a cork floating till my eyes ached and my brain was dizzy; and so intent and expert was I at the trade, that for a long time I was fishing with a naked hook, the rogues below having nibbled away the bait. I have often fished along the stream of life in this manner. However, on this memorable occasion, I caught two fishes, but it was not my fault—I could not help it—they hung themselves with my line, and I hope they forgave me with their dying breath; and this they ought to have done, because I have freely forgiven their brethren who would not let me catch them. . . . I don't know what to say about my health; and as for my spirits, they have been several times so agitated since I came hither, that, like the sea after a storm, they will be a long time before they can rock themselves calm."

The following passage describes the little room in which Montgomery wrote; and contains his own truthful remarks on the separation of the mind from present place and circumstances when engaged in the highest exercises:—

"It was a small back room of a large building in the centre of the town, and looking immediately upon one of the meanest masses of dead brick walls in Sheffield: from its windows he could see none of the fine scenery in the neighbourhood, that might serve even to remind him in summer of pastoral Alpine landscapes, or in winter of falling avalanches,—of the cottages, the lakes, or the waterfalls of Switzerland at any season. . . . Mr. Everett one day remarked to Montgomery that Matlock would be a fine situation for the permanent residence of a poet, as the beauty and variety of the scenery, according to the current opinion, would induce sublime thoughts. He partly exploded the notion; observing that he should have to lament for his own situation, if it was so. 'From the room in which I sit to write,' said Montgomery, 'and where some of my happiest pieces have been produced—those I mean which are most popular—all the prospect I have is a confined yard, where there are some miserable old walls and the backs of houses, which present to the eye neither beauty, variety, nor anything else calculated to inspire a single thought, except concerning the rough surface of the bricks, the corners of which have either been chipped off by violence, or fretted away by the weather. No; as a general rule, whatever of poetry is to be derived from scenery, must be secured before we sit down to compose—the impressions must be made already, and the mind must be abstracted from surrounding objects. It will not do to be expatiating abroad in observation, when we should be at home in concentration of thought.'

There are many letters to Montgomery from eminent contemporaries, in the second of these volumes, which are a great treat. Several long and delightful letters from Southey tempt us to quotation; but it is impossible. As a specimen of the anecdote that may be found here, we give the following account of Montgomery's

AMUSING DEFEAT OF DR. PARR.

"It was on a Sunday evening, and a goodly company

of intelligent persons of both sexes were present: the Doctor, who was expected, came sailing into the room in full canonicals. When he had taken his seat in the splendid apartment, and surrounded as he was by a considerable number of ladies, his pipe was brought, and several fair hands were presently on the alert to reach him the tobacco, a light, &c., whose owners were doubtless anything but fond of either the sight or the smell of the volume of smoke which was soon after emitted. It was not this gentle demonstration of homage and adulation on the part of the sex, so natural and amiable in itself, that so much impressed Montgomery at the moment, as his own reflection on the conduct of the individual to whom it was paid:—'And is Dr. Parr,' said our friend to himself, 'really so great a man, that it is immaterial whoever else be annoyed so that his comfort be secured? Or is he so little a man that he cannot, even under such circumstances as these, forego the usual indulgence of his fondness for smoking?' The poet, at a subsequent period, met the old Grecian at the residence of Mr. Roscoe in Liverpool. . . . When the company went into Roscoe's library, Parr seated himself on a chair, drew it near the fire, and turned his back upon every other person present. On seeing this, Montgomery said to himself, 'I'll try if I cannot move him into a less unsocial position,' and thereupon he plied the doctor with such a close volley of conversation, that presently he began to wheel about in order to face the enemy, to the satisfaction of those who not only enjoyed the loquacity of the speakers, but seemed to guess aright as to the circumstance which occasioned its display."

The *Athenaeum* calls Montgomery "a bold man" for this little assault; and adds, that he was "the only man who ever dared to beard the ponderous Dr. Parr." But that is hardly correct. We have heard an eye-witness describe a scene between the redoubtable Doctor and Heber, then a young and unknown man. Parr dogmatized on some subject of conversation, and bore down opposition by his vehemence, until Heber was roused to contradict him flatly. "Sir," said the amazed man of wig, with knitted brow, and in his most awful tone, "do you know who I am?" "Yes, Sir," meekly replied young Heber, "you are an old schoolmaster, *run to seed*." A decided settler!

But to return to Montgomery: His biographers give several specimens of his unpublished fragmentary verse, written in early life; and one complete poem, in the serio-comic vein, that exhibits something additional in the constitution and capacity of the poet, to the really various qualities his published works indicate. Perhaps the following pieces may be considered not unworthy of the author of "The Grave" and "The Common Lot," though written at a much earlier period than those poems:—

A FRAGMENT.

"The arrow that shall lay me low
Was shot from Death's unerring bow
The moment of my breath;
And every footstep I proceed
It tracks me with unerring speed:
I turn—it meets me:—Death
Has given such instinct to the dart,
It points for ever at my heart.

"And soon of me it must be said,
That I have lived,—that I am dead;—
Of all I leave behind,
A few may weep a little while,
Then bless my memory with a smile.
O my immortal mind!
When life and death no more shall be,
Where wilt thou spend ETERNITY?"

EPIGRAPH ON A YOUTH OF FIFTEEN.

"Here sleeps in peace a lovely youth:
What was his praise?—he loved the truth.
He feared not death:—what hope had he?
Hope full of immortality.
Reader, thy day of grace is now;
What praise is thine? what hope hast thou?"

Our notice has extended much further than we intended. We have represented the volumes favourably; and, making allowance for mistakes of judgment, the biographers deserve sincere gratitude and praise.

Oxford Essays, contributed by Members of the University, 1855. London: John Parker and Son.

An advertisement to this volume states, that it is "not intended to advocate any particular set of opinions, theological, social, or political. Each writer is responsible for his own opinions, and for none but his own; and no attempt has been made to give a general unity of thought to the publication. The tie that unites the different contributors is not that they think alike, but that they belong to the same university." In accordance with this independence of the several contributions, the names of the writers are affixed to the essays. The volume more nearly resembles a number of one of the great quarters, than any other publication; but the papers are distinguished by more masterly ability and fullness of treatment, than any but the very highest review articles approach to. We can hardly guess whether the want of a specific character and aim will be injurious to such a publication; but we earnestly hope not, for we greatly desire to see it continued, as it will be if successful, in succeeding years.

The first paper—by Mr. Sellar, late Fellow of Oriel—is on *Lucretius and the Poetic Characteristics of his Age*; an essay marked by rich learning, critical judgment, and fine taste. It is

doubtful whether any essay or article on Lucretius, in the English language, could be named as having the same deep interest and true worth. The second essay is by Mr. Froude, on *The Best Means of Teaching English History*; a subject on which all persons will be glad to hear him, who have read the noble historical papers attributed to him in recent numbers of the *Westminster*, and *Frazer's Magazine*. Mr. Froude maintains that "all books of modern history have been written in the interest of party, political or theological;" and contain rather *opinions* upon history than the *facts* themselves, so that "no one of them can be trusted exclusively," while "in all important matter—in the estimates which they contain of great characters, great actions, revolutions, changes, measures, and principles—no kind of agreement is to be found in them." He thinks the desideratum is "some book which shall serve for the basis of operations; holding as an authority for the history of our own nation, the place which Thucydides, and Livy, and Tacitus hold for that of the classic nations"—"a special text-book, a minute and exact understanding of which shall be required in all examinations." He considers that such a book is to be found in the "*Statutes at large*." Superficial and hasty people may smile; but there is great value in the suggestion; and Mr. Froude variously and interestingly illustrates and enforces his view of the matter:—

"In the old Statute-Book the true history of the English nation substantially lies buried,—a history, different indeed from any which has been hitherto offered to us as such. Everything of greatest consequence is to be found there. All great movements, political and religious, are treated of there; and all those questionable personal transactions which have appeared so perplexing, are there, though viewed no longer from their personal side, or as connected with personal intrigue, caprice, or feeling, but as rising out of the national will, and expressing the national judgment;—viewed from their inner side, by men apparently of large, calm, massive minds, not as we see them now, but as those saw them then, who bore a part in doing them. . . . Not only shall we find there an account of the ordinary subjects of our books, but, after careful study, a whole picture rises out of it of the old English nation, its life, its habits, its character, its occupations, amusements, hopes and fears. The political economy, the education, the relations between man and man, between landlord and tenant, between employer and employed, all are laid out before us there in unconscious simplicity, with the duties which, in all such relations, were supposed to be involved, and the degree in which such duties were fulfilled. . . . The statutes, viewed as we are viewing them, are like the book which Bishop Butler desired to see written, consisting only of premises. But the conclusions are there, and one day they will be seen and known to be there."

As to the method by which the statutes might be rendered available for the purpose of teaching history, Mr. Froude says:—

"Let there be made a carefully abridged edition, containing all such statutes as directly bear on the outer or inner life of England, especial care being taken with such as are chosen, to give the language of them exactly as it is, without omission or curtailment. . . . The language itself, and the thoughts contained in it, are so many windows opened into the temper and nature of those times. And if this selection be really well made, and thoroughly mastered and understood, we do not hesitate to say that the result will be an insight into the condition of this country during that period, more complete in itself, more thorough, sound, and genuine, than could be gained in learning by heart every modern book upon the subject which is extant in our language."

Mr. Froude adds that it is not pretended that the statutes contain all which ought to be known; but with them as a ground-work, he considers, it would be more easy than it now is, to group the outward events which other books furnish, and to make them fall into their proper places and bear their proper significance. We must refer our readers for farther treatment of the subject to the essay itself—which will also interest them, and perhaps startle them, by some of the historical judgments it indicates, and by the general illustrations it contains.

The article on *Alfred de Musset*, by F. T. Légrave, we must only name and strongly commend in passing. The same course must be taken with Mr. Cowell's learned and valuable paper, on *Persian Literature*; and Mr. Thomson's profoundly thoughtful and suggestive essay on *Crime and Its Excuses*. Mr. H. J. S. Smith, of Balliol, is the author of a very acute and scientific criticism of the now notorious *Plurality of Worlds*. We may remark, that we have seen it stated that Mr. Smith is himself the author of that book; but whoever put forth the statement had not read this article—but perhaps was misled by a line of quotation at the top of a page, which would catch the eye in hastily turning the leaves. Mr. Smith expressly says, that the writer of the book in question is apparently "not unwilling to be identified with the author of *Indications of a Creator*"—and that author is Dr. Whewell. A most delightful paper on *The Neighbourhood of Oxford and its Geology*, by the well-known Mr. Phillips, makes us wish for many more such able and picturesque monographs on particular localities.

We ought to direct the attention of philosophical readers specially to Mr. Sandars' account of *Hegel's Philosophy of Right*—which renders a

very useful service to English students of morals and jurisprudence, in making known to them, clearly and cogently, the doctrine of a very remarkable but usually much neglected work, of one of the most eminent of modern philosophers. We have personally derived great pleasure and advantage from its perusal; and only wish we could liberally quote from its pages.

The last essay is the longest also:—on *Oxford Studies*, by the Rev. M. Pattison. It is liberal in spirit, thoughtful and practical in character, and far-reaching in its aims. It perhaps proposes too much, and is too much in sympathy with the popular demand for an education spread over the greatest possible extent of ground. It will not seem so to a mind equally universal and catholic with Mr. Pattison's; but there is some truth in Mr. Froude's satire, that modern educational ambition is directed to a sort of "*diluted omniscience*"; so that people rather know something about everything, than *know* anything truly.

Our account of this volume is very imperfect—necessarily so; but we have said enough to make the better class of readers desirous of seeing it, which they certainly should take care to do.

Gleanings.

The crops of currants and grapes are again expected to be short.

More than 30,000 persons returned from America to England during 1854.

Miss Mitford has left the bulk of her property, under 3,000£, to a faithful domestic.

A bashful printer refused a situation in a printing-office where females were employed, saying that he never "set up" with a girl in his life.

Miss Nightingale, it is said, has been obliged to cut off her beautiful hair, in consequence of a late attack of fever, from which, however, she has recovered.

A Texas paper says that the earth is so kind in that State, that "just tickle her with a hoe and she will laugh with a harvest."

M. Jullien has retired, *pro tempore*, to his estate in Belgium, to take some repose after the fatigues of his dull winter season and his long tour in the provinces.

The *New York Herald* notices the production of a blue rose at Paris, by artificial crossings, and also of a green rose in North Carolina.

A new kind of visiting-card is now in use by the "crème" of New York society—instead of a name, the card bears the photographic portrait of the caller.

The following entry appeared in one of the recent returns made by the Vienna police-agents to their superiors. "Lord John Russell has walked arm-in-arm on the glacier with Prince Gorchakov."

It is stated that a cake of compressed vegetables, about one inch by half an inch in surface, and half an inch thick, was sufficient for three rations, when expanded by boiling.

The first application in the Sandwich Islands for a bank charter has recently been made; the first steam flour mill has been built, and the first flour manufactured.

A lady, Mrs. Elwes, of Aislaby Hall, near Whitby, died a few days ago from having inhaled chloroform, which she was in the habit of taking to relieve tooth-ache and similar slight affections.

An English Judge being asked, what contributed most to success at the Bar, replied—"Some succeed by great talent, some by a miracle, but the majority by commencing without a shilling."

On a child being told, the other day, that he must be broken of a bad habit, he acutely replied, "Papa, hadn't I better be mended?" Papa absquatulated.

The Montrose town-council has projected a stately monument to Mr. Hume in his native town, to mark the sense in which his memory and his unwearied public services are held by his fellow-townsmen.

Of the 3,000,000 tons of coals imported every year into London, more than 300,000 are wasted in smoke. At 20s. a ton, what a fund might be saved here for the improvement of the metropolis!

Two marriages took place at the same time a few days since at Maximeux (Ain), the happy brides being a young girl of seventeen, and her great-grandmother, aged seventy-two, who was venturing on matrimony for the fourth time.

The Emperor of the French has been pleased, by special brevet, dated March 20, 1855, to appoint the Messrs. Robert Cocks and Co., of New Burlington-street, London, to be music publishers to his Imperial Majesty.

A new ballet has been lately produced at La Scala, Milan, entitled "Shakspeare." One scene exhibits the poet as inebriated, in a low pothouse at Greenwich, and having a pugilistic encounter with another drunken man. Queen Elizabeth, disguised, appears also present in the same public-house.

From the evidence printed for the use of Mr. Rockbuck's Committee, it would appear that they have put upwards of 5,000 questions to the witnesses, and have received 5,000 answers since the inquiry commenced, or at the rate of between 400 and 500 postulates and replies per day.

The principal writers, says the *Court Journal*, in the *Times* at present (under Mr. Delane) are the Rev. Thomas Moseley; Mr. Sampson, who succeeded Mr. Alsager as writer of the City article; Mr. Robert Lowe, the M.P. for Kidderminster, who has charge of the colonial subjects; Mr. Thornton, who writes the Parliamentary summary; Tyas, "much renowned for Greek"; Macdonald (who was sent to Constantinople with the fund for the sick); Ward, a "Quar-

terly Reviewer;" John Oxenford, the dramatic critic; and Dr. Richardson. The manager of the *Times* now for several years past—and really more of the editor than Mr. Delane himself—is Mr. Mowbray Morris, a barrister.

During the very severe winter of this year the snow was replete with crystallised particles of compound figure, which were formerly imagined to be confined almost if not entirely, to the Polar regions.

The most remarkable instance of preservation by frost is that of the Siberian mammoth, which is supposed to have been buried under the ice several thousands of years, and when first exposed from its icy covering the flesh was quite fresh, and was eaten by dogs.

It seems that there are poachers on Dr. Cumming's manor, as a prophecier of the speedy end of the world. The *Arborth Guide* says: "Hundreds are following the example of the good Dr. Cumming, by rushing into the speculation, and becoming bran new patent prophets on their own account. Since the betting-houses have been put down, we have had nothing half so popular." In the year one thousand a belief in the period fixed for the earth's destruction being the end of that year was very prevalent. Under this impression the archives of many countries contain a great number of charters commencing with, "As the end of the world is approaching, it is unnecessary to repair this bridge," or "rebuild that church." Many gave liberty to their slaves or ameliorated the condition of their poor and hitherto slighted dependants.

BIRTHS.

March 26, at Denmark-hill, Mrs. JOHN JAMES SMITH, of a son.

March 30, at Hayward-heath, Mrs. HOSATIO GOULTY, of a daughter.

March 31, at Critchell-place, New North-road, the wife of Dr. LEONARD, of a son.

April 1, at Coleford, the wife of Rev. JOHN PENNY, of a son.

April 2, at Hastings, the wife of Rev. JOHN STENT, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

March 27, at the Baptist Chapel, Rugby, by the Rev. Henry Augus, Mr. J. M. NICHOLSON, of Manchester, to Miss MARY ANN, daughter of the Rev. E. FALL, of Newbold, near Rugby.

March 28, at Ebenezer Chapel, Chatham, by the Rev. J. S. Hall, the Rev. GEORGE KETTLE, of Upminster, Essex, to JANE, second daughter of Mr. JOSEPH YOUNG, of the Luton-road, Chatham.

March 28, by licence, at the Independent Chapel, Kingswood, near Wotton, by the Rev. T. Winter, of Bristol, Mr. T. T. WINTER, of Trowbridge, to HESTER LOUISA, only child of Mr. W. DODNEY, of the above place, and granddaughter of W. F. FRAZER, Esq.

March 29, at the Independent Chapel, Castle-street, Great Torrington, Devon, by the Rev. James Buckpit, Mr. JOHN SMALE, jun., to MARY VODDEN, both of Merton, Devon.

April 3, at York-street Chapel, by Rev. John Burnet, JOHN STRAWB, Esq. (Edinburgh News), Hope-park-end House, Edinburgh, to LOUISA, second daughter of the late Dr. HOOKE, Kennington, London.

DEATHS.

Nov. 29, 1854, at Ballarat, Australia, HENRY BROTHEROE, son of WILLIAM BROTHEROE, Esq., late of Blakeney, Gloucestershire, in the twenty-ninth year of his age.

Jan. 16, at Edina, West Africa, the Rev. JOHN KINGDON, aged fifty-one. He was deputed by the American Board of Missions to visit their stations in that country, and, while engaged in a course of laborious inspection, fell a victim to fever. For nearly eighteen years Mr. Kingdon had laboured in Jamaica and Honduras, in connexion with the English Baptist Missionary Society.

March 10, at Scutari, of fever, the Rev. GEORGE HENRY PROCTOR, Assistant Officiating Chaplain to the army in the Crimea, eldest and only surviving son of the Rev. GEORGE PROCTOR, D.D., Rector of Hadley, Middlesex.

March 20, at Chishill, Essex, after a few days' illness, Mr. GEORGE ELLIS, farmer, aged thirty-six.

March 22, after a short illness, at 4, Grove-hill, Camberwell, PARCY EDGAR, the beloved child of H. R. ELLINGTON, Esq., aged two years and two months.

March 24, at No. 24, Colebrooke-row, Islington, ELIZA, the eldest surviving daughter of Mr. E. CHATTERS, of Staple-inn, solicitor, having survived her mother ten days.

March 25, at Beckford-row, Waiworth, of hooping cough, JANE, youngest daughter of Mr. CHARLES JAMES CHATTERS.

March 26, very suddenly, Mr. JOHN DIXON, for twenty years Deacon of the Independent Church, Chichester, very highly esteemed, and deeply lamented.

March 27, after a lingering illness, at his residence, No. 51, Buckingham-place, Brighton, WILLIAM DRUMMOND, Esq., artist, in the forty-fourth year of his age.

March 27, at Helmsley, Yorkshire, Lieut.-General W. SANDWITH, C.B., of the Bombay Army, deeply regretted.

March 28, at St. John's-hill, Battersea, AMELIA, relict of the late HENRY TRITON, Esq., in the sixty-fourth year of her age.

March 28, at St. John's-wood, KATHARINE REONIER, second daughter of FRANCIS ROUBILLAC and ANNE MATILDA CONDÉS, aged one year and three months.

March 29, at his residence, Sandersfoot, near Tenby, the Rev. WILLIAM THOMAS, father of the Rev. DAVID THOMAS, of Stockwell, in the seventy-third year of his age. He was a truly good man, a humble Christian, a most powerful and signally useful preacher, and was for upwards of forty years the minister of Sardis Chapel.

March 30, at Monmouth, suddenly, ANN, the wife of Rev. S. PAKER.

March 30, at his town residence, GUSTAVUS, sixth Viscount BONVILLE.

March 31, at 44, Eaton-place, ELIZA, widow of Sir ROBERT CUNNINGHAM, Her Majesty's Master of the Ceremonies, in her seventy-ninth year.

March 31, the Rev. JOHN MANNING, of Spaldwick, Huntingdonshire, aged ninety-five. For forty-nine years he was pastor of the Baptist Church in that place, which office he resigned eleven years ago. He preached to his former charge once on each of the first two Sabbaths of the present year, and administered the Lord's Supper on the first of those days.

April 3, at Alburgh, in Norfolk, MARY ANNE, the beloved wife of WILLIAM TACON, Esq.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]—The full value of an admirable remedy—Cod LIVER OIL—not only in Consumption, but in many other painful disorders, has hitherto not been so justly appreciated in England as by our Continental neighbours,—practical experience having taught them its extraordinary efficacy in cases of Rheumatism, Gout, Bronchitis, Asthma, Rickets, Scrofula, and Cutaneous Diseases, and its superiority over every other medicine for the restoration of strength to the convalescent. Probably this error has arisen from the difficulty of obtaining Cod Liver Oil in a pure and genuine state—few articles being more ingeniously and extensively adulterated or tampered with. This obstacle is now fortunately removed by the introduction into this country of the celebrated Light Brown Cod Liver Oil of Dr. de Jongh, whose indefatigable researches, during a period of fifteen years, have enabled him to detect the causes of the too frequent failures of this remedy, to discover its essential properties, and to supply an article ensuring the confidence of medical practitioners and their suffering patients. Sold in Imperial Half pint, Pint, and Quart Bottles, with full directions for use, by Anas, Harford, and Co., 77, Strand, London, Dr. de Jongh's accredited Agents and Consignees, and may be obtained from all respectable Chemists and Druggists in the Kingdom.

The Revenue.

No. I. An Abstract of the Net Produce of the Revenue of the United Kingdom, in the undermentioned periods, ended March 31, 1855, compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding year.

QUARTERS ENDED.				
	July 5, 1854.	Oct. 10, 1854.	Jan. 5, 1855.	Jan. 6 to March 31, 1855.
Customs	5,093,137	5,513,006	5,466,364	4,424,151
Excise	4,002,118	5,164,965	4,537,640	3,384,416
Stamps	1,820,459	1,748,260	1,719,017	1,677,771
Taxes	1,456,927	116,680	1,388,632	194,897
Property Tax	1,823,181	2,617,040	919,460	5,740,708
Post-office	379,000	344,000	283,234	262,922
Crown Lands	65,000	61,572	80,000	66,000
Miscellaneous	196,204	129,163	163,800	240,411
Totals	14,421,976	15,594,725	14,458,177	15,021,276

QUARTERS ENDED.				
	July 5, 1853.	Oct. 10, 1853.	Jan. 5, 1854.	Jan. 6 to March 31, 1854.
Customs	5,452,437	5,663,113	4,883,292	4,203,091
Excise	4,183,686	4,810,063	3,934,688	3,173,132
Stamps	1,790,807	1,736,173	1,636,578	1,622,827
Taxes	1,510,483	129,319	1,402,690	99,302
Property Tax	1,063,027	1,947,354	435,558	1,942,096
Post-office	251,000	236,300	335,000	247,000
Crown Lands	200,888	50,000	80,000	65,000
Miscellaneous	346,833	165,447	307,904	284,520
Totals	14,791,563	14,737,389	13,017,810	10,636,998

	Year, from April 6, 1854, to March 31, 1855.	Year, from April 6, 1853, to March 31, 1854.
Customs	20,406,658	20,300,933
Excise	16,179,169	15,101,591
Stamps	6,966,518	6,789,385
Taxes	3,036,196	3,141,694
Property Tax	10,515,369	5,378,035
Post-office	1,299,156	1,069,000
Crown Lands	273,572	305,888
Miscellaneous	731,578	1,107,004
Totals	59,406,154	53,183,530

No. II. Increase and Decrease in the Quarter and Year ended March 31, 1855, as compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding year.

QUARTER ENDED March 31, 1855.		YEAR ENDED March 31, 1855.	
Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£
Customs	231,060	205,725	—
Excise	211,284	1,077,578	—
Stamps	54,944	176,131	—
Taxes	95,565	105,558	—
Property Tax	3,798,612	5,137,334	—
Post-office	45,922	230,156	—
Crown Lands	1,000	123,316	—
Miscellaneous	—	44,100	375,426
Totals	4,426,417	44,100	6,916,924
	£4,384,308	£6,312,624	Net Increase.

No. III. An Account showing the Net Revenue and other Receipts of the Quarter ended March 31, 1855; the Application of the same, and the Charge of the Consolidated Fund for the said Quarter, together with the Surplus or Deficiency upon such Charge.

Surplus Balance beyond the Charge of the Consolidated Fund, for the Quarter ended January 5, 1855, viz.—	£469,993
Amount received for Exchequer Bonds appropriated by Parliament to Supply Services, remaining in the Exchequer on January 5, 1855.	250,466
Net Income received in the Quarter ended March 31, 1855, as shown in Account 1.	15,621,276
Amount received in the Quarter ending March 31, 1855, for Exchequer Bonds issued	407,902
Amount of Exchequer Bills (Ways and Means) issued in the Quarter ending March 31, 1855.	1,000,000
Amount received in the Quarter ending March 31, 1855, in repayment of Advances for Public Works, &c.	189,644
Balance, being the Deficiency upon the Charge of the Consolidated Fund in Great Britain, and for which Exchequer Bills (Deficiency) will be issued	3,495,615
	£20,834,896

Amount applied out of the Net Income for the Quarter ended March 31, 1855, to redemption of Exchequer Bills (Deficiency) for the Quarter ended January 5, 1855.	£1,519,534
Net Amount applied to Supply Services in the Quarter ended March 31, 1855.	11,664,627
Out of the Consolidated Fund	£10,006,259
Out of Exchequer Bonds	658,368
Out of Exchequer Bills (Ways and Means)	1,000,000
Charge of the Consolidated Fund for the Quarter ending March 31, 1855, viz.—	7,577,903
Interest of the Permanent Debt	£5,602,431
Terminable Debt	1,344,690
Interest on Deficiency Bills	124
The Civil List	100,020
Other Charges on Consolidated Fund	315,108
Advances for Public Works, &c.	215,530
Surplus Balance beyond the Charge of the Consolidated Fund, for the Quarter ended March 31, 1855, viz.—	£72,832
Great Britain	£72,832
Ireland	72,832

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

CITY, Tuesday Evening.

The Stock Market on Monday opened steadily at the closing prices of Saturday, chiefly in consequence of the favourable report of the revenue, but a re-action afterwards took place attributable mainly to the suspension of the Vienna Conferences, and the generally increasing belief that the absence of events before Sebastopol prevents all immediate probability of a peace being concluded. To-day the Funds have continued in the same heavy state, and a further decline has ensued, owing to some extent to the unfavourable return of the Board of Trade for the past month. Consols are now quoted at 92½ to 93 for both money and the 11th April. New 2½ per Cents. 78. India Bonds 11s. to 14s. Exchequer Bills are weaker, at 5s. to 9s. Ditto Bonds, 99½. The rate for Money remained without any material alteration, loans being procurable on Government securities at from 3 to 3½ per cent. The next account is fixed for the 10th May.

The range of Consols during March, which was only 1½ per cent. in the preceding month, has been equal to 2½ per cent., and, owing mainly to the steady influx of gold, the tendency of prices throughout has been mostly towards improvement. The death of the Emperor of Russia and the diplomatic reports from Vienna have likewise had an influence, but probably not beyond what has been counteracted by the anticipation of an approaching loan. In the railway share-market, owing to the backward spring and the general contraction of business, the revival has scarcely been in proportion to that in English funds.

The specie arrivals of last week amounted to about 40,000*l.*, almost entirely in gold from the United States. The exports were a little above 100,000*l.*

The Foreign Market has been dull and inactive, and the transactions unimportant. Russian Five per Cents. are quoted at 100½. Turkish Bonds are flatter at 80½ for the 16th of April; ditto Small, 80½. Dutch Four per Cent. Certificates, 92 ex div.

The Railway Share Market has been fairly supported, but prices in most instances show a trifling decline. Aberdeens are at 20½. Caledonians are 5s. weaker. Eastern Counties, 2s. 6d. flatter. Great Northerns were last done at 88. Great Westerns, & lower Lancashire and Yorkshire, ½ weaker. London and Brightons remain at 98. London and North-Westerns, 2s. 6d. higher. London and South-Westerns have improved 10s. Midlands continue firm, at 69½. Berwicks are firm, at 72. South-Easterns show a decline of 10s. Foreign Shares show a slight improvement.

Banking Shares show little alteration. London Chartered of Australia, 20½. London and County, 30. Australian Agricultural show a further fall of 10s. British American Land, 57 ex div. Canada Government Bonds, 5s. weaker. Crystal Palace Shares, 3½. General Screw Steam, 16.

The accounts of the trade of the manufacturing towns during the past week present nothing of interest. At Manchester there has been a slight increase in the extent of business, and the tone of the market is less weak. The Birmingham report announces an intention of the ironmasters this quarter to make a reduction of 20s. per ton, a step which must lead to a fall in the prices of materials, such as coal, ironstone, &c. The brass and copper trades continue to show the steadiness which they have experienced for many months, but in the other manufactures of the district, with few exceptions, there is much dulness. The only fresh failures have been two or three small ones, although a portion of the paper still afloat in various quarters is regarded with distrust. At Nottingham, owing to the home demand, there has been a little improvement both in the hosiery and lace departments. In the woollen districts the business is of a very cautious and limited character, and in the Irish linen markets the recent tendency to a gradual recovery has been maintained.

The departures from the port of London for the Australian colonies during the week have comprised six vessels—two to Sydney, with an aggregate burden of 1,684 tons; two to Adelaide, with an aggregate burden of 1,484 tons; and one to Port Phillip, of 818 tons; and one to New Zealand, of 533 tons. Their total capacity was 4,519 tons. The rates of freight exhibit no tendency to improvement.

In the import business of the port of London during the past week there was little activity, easterly winds being still prevalent. The total number of vessels reported inward was 93, being 11 less than in the previous week. The departures continue numerous, the total number cleared outwards being 131—the same as in the previous week. The number of vessels on the berth loading for the Australian colonies is 37. Of those, six are for Adelaide, five for Hobart Town, two for Launceston, one for Morton Bay, four for New Zealand, seven for Port Phillip, one for Portland Bay, eight for Sydney, and one for Swan River.

The Board of Trade returns for the month and two months ending the 5th March, 1855, 1854-5, and 1853, have been issued. The total declared value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures during the month and two months, including only the "enumerated" articles, is subjoined, viz.—

For the month. For 2 months.

1855 £4,488,112 £10,197,460

1854 6,617,433 12,480,526

1853 6,272,649 12,504,490

It will be seen from these figures that the export trade of the country is at length experiencing a considerable diminution of activity, as compared with previous years. Compared with last year's figures, the decrease on the month is 2,129,251*l.*, and on the two months 2,283,066*l.*, or at the rate of about 18 per cent. The war, the overstocked state of foreign markets, especially those of Australia, and the uncertainty with regard to the position of the Ministry which prevailed during the period embraced in the above figures, have all contributed to check exporting business during the month in question. It must not be overlooked, however, that the comparison lies with two years (1854 and 1853), when the exports of the country attained an unprecedented degree of expansion. Including the "unenumerated articles," the month's exports for

Hart, and W. B. Patrick, Horseferry-road, Limehouse, and Hooper-square, Whitechapel, sugar refiners; as far as regards W. Patrick—S. Sybry and T. Ellis, Sheffield, steel converters—M. Nelson and S. Dalby, Bradford, Yorkshire, booksellers—R. J. Poole and R. Polglase, Borough-road, Southwark, and Radcliffe Foundry, Commercial-road East, engineers—G. Bell, son, and G. Belben jun., Poole, Dorsetshire, millers—J. J. Fox and W. B. Cartwright, Devizes, Wiltshire, drapers—R. Goulding and J. W. Ledger, Market-lane, City, and Potter's-fields, Horsleydown, cornmerchants—Isabella Smith and G. Smith, Ilmadraper—E. F. Ellis, F. Barclay, W. Ellis, and R. Ellis; as far as regards E. F. Ellis—T. Barton and E. W. Kingsbury, Wellington-street North, Strand, advertising agents—D. Baldwin, J. E. Cumming, J. C. Buchanan, J. Duff, P. Hunter, E. Cunard, W. Cunard, H. Boggs, Hon. S. Cunard, J. R. Forman, Jane Paterson, J. Hunter, W. Grieve, J. Crowley, W. W. L. Lyttleton, J. J. Grieve, J. M. Spearman, J. Wood, and W. Douglas, public carriers, under the firm of the Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Bermuda Royal Mail Steam-packet Company—Sinclair and Co., Dumfries, booksellers; as far as regards J. Sinclair.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

Chisholm, A., Fort William, fleshier, April 13. Thomson, J., and Thompson, J., Paisley, bricklayers, April 6. McDonald, J., Banff, cabinetmaker, April 9. Stoddart, P., Dundee, bootmaker, April 10. Sutherland, J., Edinburgh, furniture dealer, April 7. Eason, J., Edinburgh, tavern keeper, April 16. Aitken, J., Glasgow, merchant, April 11. Raeburn, W., Glasgow, woollendraper, April 10. Bache, G., and Ballantyne, J., Glasgow, flint glass manufacturers, April 9.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

Holmes, J. O., and Marshall, Y. L., Sunderland, timber merchants, third and final div. of 2½d., March 31, and any subsequent Saturday, at Baker's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—Tregenza, E., Stockton-upon-Tees, shoe dealer, first div. of 2s., March 31, and any subsequent Saturday, at Baker's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—MacLeod, D., Ealing, Middlesex, first div. of 3d., April 2, and any subsequent Monday, at Cannan's, Aldermanbury.

Tuesday, April 3, 1855.

BANKRUPTS.

JONES, M., Oxford-street, grocer, April 14, May 18; solicitors, Messrs. Linklater, Sise-lane, Bucklersbury.

HARVEY, T., Great St. Helen's, City, money scrivener, April 17, May 9; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Co., Old Jewry-chambers, City.

FRANCIS, M. H., George-yard, Lombard-street, dealer in mining shares, April 17, May 9; solicitors, Messrs. Linklater, Sise-lane.

ASPIN, W., jun., Morgan's-lane, Tooley-street, April 17, May 15; solicitors, Messrs. Bothamley and Freeman, Coleman-street.

PLUMER, S. P., New-street, Chambers, City, merchant, April 17, May 17; solicitors, Messrs. Reed and Co., Friday-street.

MILLER, W., Whitechapel road, coffee house keeper, April 17, May 17; solicitor, Mr. Roscoe, King-street, Finsbury.

BAKER, J., Eastchurch, Kent, grocer, April 20, May 18; solicitor, Mr. Beckett, John-street, Bedfrow.

KEMP, W., Guildford, Surrey, draper, April 17, May 15; solicitors, Messrs. Soin and Co., Aldermanbury.

EATON, A., Milk-street, Cheapside, warehouseman, April 13, May 19; solicitor, Mr. Reed, Ironmonger-lane.

RANDALL, S., Wellington, Northamptonshire, shoe manufacturer, April 13, May 19; solicitors, Mr. Roscoe, King-street, Finsbury-square; and T. Cook, Wellington.

PARLOUR, C. J., Strand, lithographer, April 13, May 21; solicitors, Messrs. Linklater, Sise-lane.

LEWISON, E., Hatfield, Hertfordshire, baker, April 14, May 21; solicitors, Messrs. Young and Potts, Market-lane.

RICHARDSON, T., Birmingham, penholder manufacturer, April 14, May 11; solicitor, Mr. East, Birmingham.

BROOKES, J., Birmingham, brass manufacturer, April 21, May 11; solicitor, Mr. East, Birmingham.

MEADS, E., Bristol, tavern keeper, April 16, May 14; solicitors, Mr. Crosby, Bristol; and Mr. Jay, Sergeant's-inn.

HINCLOVE, U., Halifax, Yorkshire, beerseller, April 16, May 7; solicitors, Mr. Robson, Halifax; and Messrs. Cariss and Cudworth, Leeds.

MISKE, R., Manchester, picture dealer, April 13, May 4; solicitors, Mr. Stopher, Cheapside; and Mr. Atherton, Manchester.

DIVIDENDS.

April 24, R. Balla, Mortlake, Surrey, builder—April 24, R. Norman, Hilton, Cambridgeshire, grocer—April 24, H. Buckell, Portsea, Hampshire, draper—April 24, R. Waistell, Noble-street, City, warehouseman—April 26, I. Cooper, Luddington, Northamptonshire, corn dealer—April 27, C. May, Norwich; W. L. Metcalfe, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk; and C. J. Metcalfe, Roxton, Bedfordshire, soap manufacturers—April 27, W. L. Metcalfe (separate estate), Great Yarmouth, soap manufacturer—April 27, C. J. Metcalfe (separate estate), Roxton, Bedfordshire, soap manufacturer—April 26, A. Silvestre, Argyll-street, Regent-street, importer of fancy goods—April 26, J. A. Bell, Great Beddow, Essex, hop merchant—April 26, W. Hall, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, butcher—April 26, W. Robinson, Grand Junction-terrace, Edgware-road, upholsterer—April 27, Mary Parks, Golden-square, printer—May 3, G. Longmore (separate estate), Manchester, provision merchant—May 3, G. Longmore and J. Longmore, Manchester, provision merchants—April 28, J. Crowther, Manchester, and Eccles, Lancashire, grocer—April 27, L. Tatley, Ince, near Wigan, Lancashire, cotton spinner—May 4, W. Waltham, Yealand Conyers, Lancashire; Manchester: Higher Bentham and Lower Bentham, Yorkshire; Holme Mills, Milnthorpe, and Gate Beck, Westmorland, spinner—May 10, H. Hunt, Heaton Norris, Lancashire; Glossop, Derbyshire; and Manchester, paper manufacturer—April 27, W. Wilson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, scrivener—April 27, R. Hutchinson, Monkwearmouth Shore, Durham, ship builder—May 7, T. Gaukroger and J. Gaukroger, Halifax, Yorkshire, cotton spinners—May 7, J. Gaukroger (separate estate), Halifax, Yorkshire, cotton spinner—May 7, J. Gaukroger, T. Gaukroger, and W. Slater, Halifax, Yorkshire, cotton spinners—May 2, B. Hesleden, Barton-upon-Humber, Lincolnshire, scrivener.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

G. Piccirillo and D. Piccirillo, John-street, Minories, shipping agents—R. H. Frankham and H. Frankham, Wilson-street, St. Pancras, barometer manufacturers—E. English and A. Kay, Belvedere-road, Lambeth, soap manufacturers—W. Young and G. Young, Hart-street, Cripplegate, glass dealers—H. Mackay and J. Irvine, Liverpool, timber merchants—B. Salway and S. Yates, Bridgford, Shropshire, carpet manufacturers—J. Whalley and J. Oakes, Manchester, manufacturing chemists—W. Higgins and K. J. Chippindall, Liverpool, oil merchants—W. V. Morgan and R. Rees, Crescent, Jewin-street, general merchants—R. Ballantyne and J. Orr, Liverpool, merchants—S. Nelson and H. Pratt, Halifax, Yorkshire, drain contractors—T. Evans, J. Evans, and W. Avery, Bristol, merchants—T. Jowett and A. Beanlands, Bingley, Yorkshire, worsted spinners—John Vickess, Jabez Vickess, and S. Vickess, Liverpool, sugar refiners—J. Bartlett and W. M. Lightfoot, Bloomsbury-square, publishers—J. Madocks and W. Robinson, Wembdon, brewers—W. Jones, C. Davies, and G. Wheller, Newport, Monmouthshire, corn merchants—T. Burgess and J. B. Banks, Witton, Cheshire, smallware dealers—J. Mayall, L. Dyson, and J. Buckley, Oldham, Lancashire, cotton spinners—T. S. Algar and W. E. Algar, Sheffield, Yorkshire, printers—N. Chapman, J. Holland, John Chapman, and Jesse Chapman, Manchester; as far as regards N. Chapman—W. Woollin and G. Woollin, Upper Clapton, Middlesex, butchers—J. Davies and Sarah Davies, Camberwell, laundresses—E. Baxter, G. P. Barnes, G. Booth, and N. Lloyd, Manchester, manufacturing chemists—G. Copeland, W. V. Copeland, and W. A. Chapman, Nottingham, lace manufacturers; as far as regards G. Copeland—T. Syckelmoore and G. Hooker, Maidstone, Kent, curriers—J. Goding, C. Ogle, and H. Jenkins, Belvedere-road, Lambeth, brewers; as far as regards J. Goding—Betty Worley and J. Heys, Helmshore, Lancashire, cotton manufacturers—T. F. Chilver, O. F. Cundy, and W. H. Slade, New Burlington-street, St. James's, and Chapel-street, Belgrave-square, surgeons; as far as regards O. F. Cundy—H. Frost and J. Peacock, Manchester, machinists—J. Vigers and R. Vigers, Kennington, timber merchants—J. F. Holmes and W. C. Holmes, Huddersfield and Heckmondwike, Yorkshire, and Syd-

ney, New South Wales, ironmongers—J. Parks, J. Barton, and G. Barton, Manchester, Salford, and Broughton, Lancashire, copper roller manufacturers; as far as regards J. Parks—L. McKinnon, jun., Aberdeen; as far as regards his connexion with the Bon-Accord Property Investment Company, Aberdeen.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

Mossman, W., Alexandria, near Dumbarton, Wright, April 13. King, A., Paisley, dyer, April 13. Chapman, G., Crieff, grocer, April 13. Durward, J., Stonehaven, grocer, April 12. Bell, W., Glasgow, nail manufacturer, April 12. Dykes, A., Glasgow, salesmen, April 9. Greenhields, D., Glasgow, music seller, April 12.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

Carne, J., sen., Truro, Cornwall, provision merchant, final div. of 5d.—any Tuesday or Friday, at Hirtzel's, Exeter—Bench, R., Birmingham, flour dealer, first div. of 1s. 10d., any Thursday, at Christie's, Birmingham—Carter, T., Reading, Berkshire, jeweller, third div. of 12s. 9d., April 4, and three subsequent Wednesdays, at Lee's, Aldermanbury—Gummer, J. C., Hart-street, wine merchant, first div. of 7s. 3d., April 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers—Fox, G., Crombley's-row, Commercial-road East, clothier, first div. of 3s., April 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers—Crane, R., Harrow-on-the-hill, Middlesex, draper, second div. of 3d., April 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers—Nutter, T., Cambridge, brewer, first div. of 2s. 6d., April 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers—Mitchell, R., Lime-street, City, merchant, seventh div. of 1d., April 10, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers—Manson, T., Lloyd's Coffee-house, underwriter, third div. of 4d., April 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers—Batt, E., Newcastle-place, Edgware-road, laceman, second div. of 4d., April 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers—Clarke, C., Norwich, maltster, second div. of 3s. 6d., April 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers—Mallam, C. E., Tunbridge Wells, Kent, innkeeper, first div. of 3s. 4d., April 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers—Brown, J., Winchester, carpenter, first div. of 3s., April 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Pennell's, Guildhall-chambers—Pearse, H., Hertfordshire, and Finsbury-place South, City, merchant, first div. of 1s. 2d., April 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Nicholson's, Basinghall-street—Wright, R. M., and Ainslie, J. S., Broken-wharf, Upper Thames-street, drysailors, first div. of 6s. 8d., April 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Nicholson's, Basinghall-street—Winkfield, J., East Greenwich, Kent, cement merchant, first div. of 5s. 4d., April 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Nicholson's, Basinghall-street—Brown, R., and Burnham, J., Potton, Bedfordshire, common brewers, first div. of 5s., April 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Nicholson's, Basinghall-street—Brown, R., (separate estate), Potton, Bedfordshire, common brewer, div. of 2s., April 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Nicholson's, Basinghall-street.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, April 2.

The quantity of wheat from our neighbouring counties offering at market this morning was small, and the greatest part of it was sold at fully last Monday's prices; for foreign the demand was moderate, and last week's prices could not be exceeded. Flour slow sale. Barley met with more buyers, and was less dearer. Beans and peas regular sale. The supply of oats was small, but the trade slow at last Monday's quotations. Tares very dull and offering cheaper, the quantity on sale being large. White cloverseed 3d to 4s per cwt lower, but red without alteration. Linseed cakes firm.

BRITISH.

Wheat—	s.	s.	Wheat—	s.	s.
Essex and Kent, Red	66	70	Dantzig	50	58
Ditto White	70	80	Konigsberg, Red	72	84
Lin., Norfolk, Red	—	—	Pomeranian, Red	74	72
Scotch	66	70	Rostock	74	82
Rye	40	43	Danish and Holstein	70	74
Barley malting (new)	32	34	Petersburg	64	72
Distilling	—	—	Riga and Archangel	58	60
Malt (pale)	62	70	Marianopoli	76	82
Beans, Marzagan	42	45	Taganrog	56	60
Ticks	—	—	Egyptian	50	52
Harrow	—	—	American (U.S.)	72	80
Pigeon	43	45	Barley, Pomeranian	30	31
Peas, White	40	42	Konigsberg	—	—
Grey	37	40	Danish	30	33
Maple	37	40	East Friesland	27	29
Bolters	42	44	Petersburg	26	28
Tares (English)	50	52	Russian	24	25
Foreign	46	53	Odessa	24	25
Oats (English feed)	24	27	Beans—	—	—
Flour, town made, per sack of 280 lbs.	62	65	Horse	37	38
Linenseed, English	66	70	Pigeon	40	42
Baltic	58	60	Egyptian	34	36
Black Sea	62	64	Oats—	—	—
Hempseed	40	44	Dutch	24	27
Canaryseed	40	52	Jahde	24	27
Cloverseed, per cwt. of 112 lbs. English	56	70	Danish	22	26
German	56	70	Danish, Yellow feed	25	27
French	44	58	Swedish	25	27
American	44	48	Petersburg	26	27
Linenseed Cakes, 15d 10s to 16d 8s	—	—	Flour, per bar. of 196 lbs.	—	—
Rape Cake, 6d to 6d 10s per ton	—	—	New York	36	40
Rapeseed, 3d 10s to 3d 16s per ton	—	—	Rape Cake, per sack	57	58
Lambton, 5s to 6s	—	—	Carawayseed	32	34

BUTCHER'S MEAT. SMITHFIELD, Monday, April 2.

To-day's market was but moderately supplied with foreign stock, in the most part, very middling condition. The receipts of beasts from Norfolk were large, and of excellent quality; indeed, the show of this description of stock was very prime. The attendance of buyers was good, yet the beef trade was in a depressed state, at a decline in the prices obtained on Monday last of 2d per 8 lbs. In some instances the quotations gave way 4d per 8 lbs; hence, 4s 10d per 8 lbs must be considered an extreme price for the best Scots. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, we received 2,700 Soots and short horns; from other parts of England, 400 of various breeds; and from Scotland, 260 horned and polled Scots. There was a considerable increase in the supply of sheep, compared with several previous weeks; but at least two-thirds of the number were composed of tups of light weight. Evidently, keep is getting very scarce in some of our flock districts. All kinds of sheep met a dull sale, and prices gave way quite 2d per 8 lbs. Long-wooled sheep were extremely heavy, and were even lower than above quoted. Shorn sheep sold with difficulty at fully 6d per 8 lbs below those in the wool. The supply of lambs was moderate, and the sale for them was steady, at from 5s to 6s per 8 lbs. We were scarcely supplied with calves, and the veal trade ruled steady, at 4d per 8 lbs above last Friday's currency. Top price 4s 10d per 8 lbs. The sale for pigs was heavy. In prices, no change took place.

Per 8 lbs. to sink the offal.

s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.		
Inf. coarse beasts	3	2	3	4	Pr. coarse woollen	4	2	4	4
Second quality	3	6	2	2	Pr. fine Southdown	4	8	5	0
Prime large oxen	4	4	4	6	Lge. coarse calves	3	10	4	4
Prime Scots, &c.	4	8	4	10	Pr. small	4	6	4	10
Coarse inf. sheep	3	8	3	8	Large hogs	3	0	4	0
Second quality	3	10	4	0	Neat sm. porkers	4	2</td		

Subvertisements.

TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS, &c.—EDWARD A. RHODES, WHOLESALE and RETAIL DRUGGIST and GROCER; Smith, Yorkshire, is in immediate want of Two Respectable YOUTHES as APPRENTICES. A Minister's Son would be taken at a small premium.

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The FOURTH ANNIVERSARY of this Society will take place at SHIRELAND HALL, on Monday, April 9, 1848, at Seven o'clock in the Evening.

Mr. Commissioner HILL, Q.C., the Recorder of the Borough, will preside.

The attendance of the Subscribers and Friends of the Society is requested.

THOMAS HARWOOD MORGAN, Secretary.

Shireland Hall, April 2.

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